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HOME NEWS

New deal for landlords and council tenants

By Christopher Warrman and John Young

The Government's promise to give local authority tenants, and in some cases housing authority tenants, a statutory right to buy their homes is enshrined in the Housing Bill, published yesterday.

Other sections of the Bill if enacted will give council tenants security of tenure and allow them to take in lodgers and to get improvement grants on the same basis as owner-occupiers.

Private landlords will be enabled to let at fair rents for fixed terms of between one and five years, at the end of which they will have the right to regain possession.

A new deficit housing subsidy system will be introduced for local authorities, new town corporations and the Development Board for Rural Wales. Its object will be to meet the difference between subsidisable housing costs and the contribution which authorities can

reasonably be expected to make from their own resources.

A schedule to the Act is intended to extend and simplify the regulations for improvement and repairs grants introduced in the Housing Act, 1974.

As promised recently by Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing, the Government will underwrite part of any losses incurred by local authorities which acquire and improve houses for resale.

Another of Mr Stanley's underpinnings is given effect in a clause that enables councils to guarantee building society mortgages. For the first time, a council will be empowered to indemnify a society for the whole or part of a defaulting mortgagor's outstanding debt and where necessary transfer the mortgage to itself.

An unusually long section of the introductory chapter is devoted to the financial effects of the Bill, clearly in an attempt to refute charges that the sale of council properties

will result in a substantial loss to the Exchequer.

Assuming an average selling discount of 17.000, 30 per cent of the funds provided privately, it calculates that there would be immediate net capital receipts of £21m for every 10,000 houses sold; rising to between £25m and £40m in the fifth year.

Allowing for the cost of interest on the mortgages, which would be associated with the account savings of up to £3m.

Against that would need to be set expenditure rising to about £10m a year, connected with the proposed new rights for public sector tenants. About a tenth of that will be for legal expenses and the rest for additional staff and administrative costs within the Department of the Environment, the Welsh Office and local authorities.

On the right to buy, which has been one of the main planks of the Government's domestic policy both during the last election campaign and

since it came to office, the Bill states that a secure public sector tenant of at least three years standing will have the right to acquire the freehold of a house or a long lease on a flat. The period of such a lease is assumed to be 125 years with vacant possession.

The price payable will be broadly speaking the value of the property on the open market, less a discount ranging from 33 per cent to 50 per cent depending on the time the buyer has been a tenant. Part of the discount will be repayable if the freehold or lease is resold within five years.

As expected, the right to buy will not extend to tenants of housing associations which are registered charities. Under the Charities Act 1960, such associations are forbidden to dispose of assets to their beneficiaries on terms that might allow the beneficiaries to make a profit.

The right to buy will also

carry with it the right to a mortgage from the local authority or, in the case of a housing association tenant, from the housing corporation.

If a tenant's mortgage entitlement is insufficient to enable him to purchase immediately, he will be enabled to complete the purchase within two years by making a deposit of £100.

In the private sector, the introduction of a mortgage scheme is designed to persuade landlords to let empty properties by assuring them that they will be able to regain possession at the end of a set period.

During that period tenants will have full security, except in the case of non-payment of rent or breach of tenancy conditions.

The Bill also provides for the introduction of a new type of tenancy, approved landlords will be given dwellings outside the provisions of the Rent Act.

Leading article, page 13

Fears grow of IRA using new missiles

From Christopher Thomas

Belfast

The Irish Government's decision to equip its army with ground-to-air missiles may indicate a growing fear of the IRA's ability to use modern weapons gained in guerrilla warfare during the past 10 years.

That fear is shared in Northern Ireland. The army is concerned that the Provisional IRA will acquire the Russian surface-to-air missile (SAM).

The Sam-7, which is shoulder-held, was used with devastating effect in Vietnam. It is believed to be available on the black market at a price between £5,000 and £10,000. There is no evidence that any are in terrorist hands.

Official manuals describe the Sam-7 as a "man portable infra-red homing light anti-aircraft missile". It relies on tail-pursuit interception to engage low-flying aircraft and is highly effective against helicopters.

It is believed that a Sam-7 was responsible for bringing down a Rhodesian civilian airliner earlier this year at Kariba, killing 29 people.

In the immediate border areas of Ulster, helicopters are the only safe transport for military personnel. No military vehicle travels by road within a considerable distance of the border unless it is escorted.

If the IRA was able to shoot down high-flying helicopters the terrorist war would enter a new dimension. The prospect of a Sam-7 being deployed against a troop-carrying aircraft alarms senior soldiers.

The missile is 1.29 metres long and weighs 9.2 kilograms. An official Ministry of Defence report in April, 1976, said the range was nine to 10 kilometres. It is relatively simple to operate.

The republican army is being equipped with ground-to-air missiles, principally for training purposes. There is speculation that their true purpose is to protect visiting VIPs from the use of new weapons by the IRA.

Tilting train sets 160 mph record

A new British rail speed record of 160 mph was set by one of British Rail's three prototype advanced passenger trains between Glasgow and Carlisle yesterday.

The lightweight tilting train, due to enter passenger service next spring, beat its own record of 155 mph, set a fortnight ago.

Rae, aged 53, of Glasgow, described the run as "extremely smooth".

MP critically ill

Sir Stephen MacDermid, aged 72, Conservative MP for South-east, was critically ill yesterday in St Thomas's Hospital, London, after falling down steps at Westminster Underground station.

Anarchists say verdict is correct

By Ian Bradley

Belfast

Three of the four anarchists who were acquitted at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday said yesterday that the jury's verdict was correct and they were all innocent.

Mr Ronnie Bennett, Mr Iris Mills and Mr Vincent Stevenson held a press conference in London after the sentencing of Stewart Carr to nine years in jail after pleading guilty to conspiring to murder.

Statements said to have been made by Mr Carr to the police had read out in court implicated them in armed robberies of supermarkets and other places

to finance the purchase of arms and bomb-making materials.

Mr Bennett said that Mr Carr's statement had not been introduced as evidence. He said: "We were never given a chance to challenge or test it. Had we been given a chance, we would have exposed its inconsistencies, half-truths and false allegations."

He went on: "Stewart Carr alleged that we took part in a series of armed robberies. We all voluntarily took part in a series of identification parades and were never picked out."

Mr Bennett said that the robberies had obviously taken place, but that Mr Carr had changed the names of those who took part to protect the guilty.

He said that he did not know why Mr Carr, with whom he had shared a cell in Brixton prison for many months and whom he had visited thereafter,

had suggested that he and the others had taken part in the robberies.

Referring to Judge Alan King-Hamilton's remark that the jury had been "remarkably merciful in the face of the evidence" in acquitting the four anarchists, Mr Bennett said:

"If he made the comments outside the court he would be leaving himself open to a libel action. He treated the jury in a patronising manner, or worse."

Mr Bennett said that the anarchist movement in Britain, for which he works full-time, would continue to develop as before.

He said he could envisage no circumstances in which he would use violence for a political end. "Anarchists are often accused of using violence to change society. In fact, in my view, they have used violence."

Mr Carr was sentenced to nine years in jail after pleading guilty to conspiring to murder.

He was also sentenced to three years in jail for conspiracy to murder.

On one occasion, after a particularly nasty case of rape, he postponed sentence for two hours, saying that he felt so distressed and angry that he would not trust himself to pass a proper sentence.

He was a severe sentence where offences involving violence were concerned, or where young people were the victims. He was equally harsh when he sentenced an 18m bank robber to 23 years in prison, saying that he wanted to make sure that the criminal could never enjoy the fruits of his robbery.

But his remarks have more than once resulted in controversy, his manner has almost invariably been courteous and his sentences have been lenient.

He always listened carefully, and usually looked interested in what was being said. Unlike some other judges, he seldom showed hostility or had words with the accused.

He has been the judge in a number of noted trials and among the cognoscenti was known for his reliability in long, complicated cases.



Mrs Iris Mills, Mr Ronnie Bennett (centre) and Mr Vincent Stevenson yesterday.

A judge often courted by controversy

By a Staff Reporter

Judge Alan King-Hamilton ended his judicial career in the controversial style that has characterized it since his appointment as judge of the Central Criminal Court in 1964.

The anarchist trial which has just ended was his last. At 75, he has now retired.

He has been outspoken and kindly, irritating and merciful. There are hundreds in whom the mention of his name nearly provokes a fit of apoplexy, and criminals who have cause to thank him for his leniency.

He did not keep his views secret, and seemed to enjoy the publicity that attended some of his more provocative decisions.

He regretted, for instance, that the courts could not put offenders in the stocks to make them look ridiculous. A bully should be made to wear placard saying "I am a bully", he said. He was also in favour of courts having the power to order corporal punishment.

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Acquittal jury hears defendant's statements

Continued from page 1

and nobody ever criticizes a judge when he says he agrees with the verdicts and I do not see why anyone should criticize a judge. It happens to me that he does not agree with it."

The judge told Mr Carr: "From the disclosures you have made it now appears the case is far more serious than the Crown was able to present in the trial which has just ended and from the enormous wealth of detail you were able to give."

He praised the jury for the conscientious manner they dealt with the trial of the four which had lasted over 60 days, but he added: "If I may so now you can see what you have done. And I pray to God that none of you will ever have occasion to regret it."

This kind of result sometimes gives people the view that trial by jury was wrong. Judge King-Hamilton said he did not agree.

"Trial by jury is one of our most cherished institutions and in at least 90 per cent of cases juries take their task with a due sense of responsibility. My comments are intended for the remaining 10 per cent who sometimes seem to refuse to do their duty."

When Mr Carr was sentenced to nine years in jail after pleading guilty to conspiring to murder, he was also sentenced to three years in jail for conspiracy to murder.

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Court criticism of authorities on benefits fraud

From Our Correspondent

Coventry

The Department of Health and Social Security, and the Post Office were criticised at Nuneaton Magistrates' Court, Warwickshire, yesterday over payments made to a woman who claimed them illegally.

Eriden Cawley, aged 28, of Guild Road, Coventry, pleaded guilty to three sample charges of illegally obtaining £68.10.

She was said to have obtained £1,354 illegally since 1974. She was placed on probation for three years and ordered to pay £285, the maximum allowed by Parliament.

Mr Nicholas Johnson, for the defence said Mrs Cawley lied to the clerk at the DHSS in Coventry, saying she had lost her payments book. She was issued with a new book, from which she drew money from Coventry. She then drew more money from the original book at a post office in Edwinstree, where the clerk did not follow DHSS safety procedures.

Mr Johnson added: "There is criticism of two authorities. The DHSS clerks should have checked more thoroughly, and the post office clerk should have followed procedure."

Mr Johnson said that Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips were potential targets.

Lawyers reply: The British jury system as a whole was under "serious attack" from the judge in the anarchists trial, some lawyers involved in the case said last night.

In a comment to the Lord Chancellor's Office, the Council, and Law Society, the lawyers said: "The cardinal feature of the English system of criminal justice is the determination of guilt by a jury."

"It is their task, not only theirs, to examine the evidence presented by parties to the case and to reach a conclusion in an independent 'manner' without fear."

"In this instance, there has been a serious attack upon this particular jury and the jury system as a whole, which we feel is a matter of concern to the legal profession as a whole."

The statement was signed by nine barristers and solicitors who represented the four defendants acquitted on Wednesday.

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Pianist is missing before tour of Russia

By Martin Huckerby

Music Reporter

Tarasov Judd, one of the most successful young pianists in London, has disappeared in a week before he was to leave for a concert tour of Russia. He left his parents' house in Willesden on Sunday afternoon to go for a walk. He was last seen at his mother's house in Willesden on Sunday afternoon, when he was going out for a long walk and exercise after practising, because he was getting in "bad" for his tour.

The police were unable to trace him. Nor had he been taken to hospital.

"We are very distressed. We do not know what has happened. Nothing like this has ever happened before. That is why we are particularly worried about his safety."

Mr Judd, aged 22, was to have left for Russia next Sunday. He is a pianist of considerable talent and a member of the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra. Russia held no special fears for him. He made two short tours to the Soviet Union last year, and a fourth year in the Tchaikovsky piano competition in Moscow.

His mother, a former orchestral player, said he had not been particularly worried about the trip. "There were just the normal pre-concert concerns. Artists do get a little more keyed up than usual, but there was nothing exceptional."

His father, who is wearing a coat when he left. He had not taken any money with him.

Mr Judd's disappearance has caused a great deal of concern among his friends and family.

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MPs to study future of British Library

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

The funding and organization of the future of the British Library and other national libraries are the first two subjects to be investigated by the new Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and Arts.

The first oral evidence to be heard on January 16 by the nine-member committee will be from the Department of Education and Science and the new Government Office of Arts and Libraries.

The committee hopes to finish hearing evidence on libraries by April 30 and on higher education by May 31. It will then go on to investigate short-listed topics.

Those include: secondary school curricula and examinations; relations between schools and industry, with particular attention to the needs of those aged 16-19; public and private sponsorship of the arts; support for fundamental sciences and research council funding policy.

Announcing the committee's decision in London yesterday, Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, and chairman of the committee, said that in selecting the funding and organization of courses in higher education from a vast number of candidates had been inquired, the committee had been principally influenced by two considerations.

First, the possible topics put forward by Mr Mark Carls, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at the committee's request, included questions of higher education.

Secondly, Mr Price said, the members of the committee had received substantial representations about the effect on higher education of the rapid cost rises for overseas students.

The committee would be looking at higher education in the light of Mr Carls's request on subject priority, the need for management policies to implement the broad guidelines suggested by Mr Carls; and the claim that full-cost fees would destroy certain courses.

On libraries, the committee would be looking in particular at the development of information storage and retrieval in the British Library and other national libraries.

It was the committee's aim to give Government "rapid, competent, relevant, but not necessarily comprehensive, advice," Mr Price said. It did not intend to be a form of royal commission, but simply to provide advice on policies which it thought to be of sufficient importance to be able to influence decision making.

Subject balance in broad terms

University lecturers' salary will range from £4,700 to £23,000, and will go up to between £5,000 and £10,000 in April. The salary for a lecturer, or reader, will range from £9,500 to £11,850, and will go up to between £10,140 and £12,504 in April. A professor's average salary will be £14,148, rising to £14,997 in April.

The Government announced last month that universities were to receive an extra £31.8m to take account of pay settlements for all university staff within the current financial year, above those already allowed for in their annual grant.

The 10 per cent will be backdated to October 1. A further 6 per cent will be paid "on account" from next April, pending the report by the Clegg commission, with the balance to be paid in October.

The award will mean that a

university lecturer's salary will range from £4,700 to £23,000, and will go up to between £5,000 and £10,000 in April. The salary for a lecturer, or reader, will range from £9,500 to £11,850, and will go up to between £10,140 and £12,504 in April. A professor's average salary will be £14,148, rising to £14,997 in April.

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HOME NEWS

Decision deferred on
vidar police power
to give breath tests

Peter Waymark
Morning Correspondent

The Government has dodged a controversial issue of whether the police should have the power to give breath tests to motorists suspected of drinking. A consultation document on drinking and driving, published yesterday, leaves the door open for further discussion.

The document says that the Government would be opposed to indiscriminate testing, and the question was whether the restrictions on the police's power to test could be moved without leading to such results.

Under the present law a police officer can ask a driver a breath specimen only in the cases: after an accident; if the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the driver has alcohol in his body; or if he has reasonable suspicion that the driver has committed a motoring offence.

The Blennerhassett committee set up by the previous Government, recommended that to strengthen the law against drinking drivers the police should be given the power to give breath tests to "unfettered" drivers. The committee did not think the police would abuse this power.

The consultation document, however, says the proposal is the subject of innocent motorists being stopped and asked to give a breath specimen, and that this might be seen by many of them as an unreasonable, unjustified and unduly distressing intrusion into their lives by the police.

The Government does propose action that there should be a power to breath-test people in the case of motor vehicles on a far basis to people driving.

The document reserves final comment on another Blennerhassett proposal, that "high offenders" should not be allowed back on the road unless they can satisfy the court that drinking no longer presents a hazard to themselves or other road users.

The agreement with

Blennerhassett that the present legal blood/alcohol limit should remain at 80 mg per 100 ml and that breath analysis should replace blood or urine sampling.

The document notes the steep rise in hit-and-run offences and says that many seem to be drink-related. The Government is considering what action might be taken and hints at harsher penalties for failing to stop and report an accident.

The Blennerhassett report was published in April, 1976. Its recommendations were accepted in a Bill in the current session of Parliament and it could be at least 18 months before the law was changed. But the Government was determined to make a new law on drinking and driving and the consultation document would give interested organizations a chance to express their views.

Mr Fowler also made the Government's traditional pre-Christmas appeal to motorists not to drink and drive. Launching a £125m publicity campaign, he said that alcohol was the largest cause of death and injury on the road.

Commenting on the Government's proposals, the Automobile Association said: "We welcome the intention to tighten up the drink-driving laws. In our view, everything possible must be done to close loopholes and to ensure that drivers who have clearly drunk over the limit run a far greater chance of being apprehended."

"We believe the time has come for the police to be given wider discretionary powers, and we have every confidence in them to exercise such powers sensibly and responsibly. We do not see that these powers need be any more random than the random element that exists now."



Vietnamese "boat people" assembling in London yesterday before marching to the offices of the "Morning Star" to ask the communist newspaper to report the plight of the refugees.

Launderettes face extra
charge for 'trade effluent'

Owners of automatic laundries may have to pay extra charges to water authorities after a decision by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court ruled that liquid discharged from washing machines in such laundries is "trade effluent" and not "domestic sewage" under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937, and that higher charges apply. The court refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Later a legal representative of the London-based Blue and White Launderettes said: "This is a test case of major importance to the industry and several million pounds depends on today's decision."

"We shall now be considering an application to the House

of Lords appellate committee seeking leave to appeal."

The court allowed with costs an appeal by Thames Water Authority from a Clerkwell County Court decision rejecting its claim for £1,355 concerning discharge of effluent from nine Blue and White Launderettes.

Lord Justice Evershed said the appeal was solely concerned with the question whether the effluent concerned was "trade effluent" within the meaning of the 1937 Act.

"In my opinion the exclusion of domestic sewage in the Act is intended to relate to the household activities on the premises, the domestic activities of those who work there, as opposed to the effects of the business activities," the appeal judge said.

Law Report, page 22

Jail for reckless driver
who killed five

From Our Correspondent
Portsmouth

Keith Inglis, aged 32, admitted at Portsmouth Crown Court yesterday five charges of causing death by reckless driving and was jailed for four months. He was also banned from driving for two years.

The victims included two of his close friends and three members of a family travelling in another car. Mr Inglis, of Central Road, Drayton, Portsmouth, was critically injured in the crash, on the A27 dual carriageway in Portsmouth last January. The only other survivor was a girl aged eight months.

Mr David Elfer, for the prosecution, told Mr John Spokes, QC, the recorder, that Mr Inglis and the child were "excessively lucky" to be alive in view of the violence of the collision. Not even a satellite, he said, could have saved those who died.

Mr Inglis's Vauxhall Cavalier crossed the central reservation at a speed estimated at 70 mph. Counsel said that Mr Inglis at first entered a slip road at about 80 mph, then changed his mind and steered back on to the carriageway, but lost control.

On the opposite carriageway his car crashed into a Ford Cor-

tina containing Mrs Lorraine Ogilvie, the driver, her daughters, Nicola, aged eight, and Clare, aged eight months, and Mrs Hilda Cochrane, aged 78, the girls' grandmother. Only the baby survived and she is being cared for by her father.

Mr Inglis's two passengers, Ruth Barchelor, aged 26, and Martin Hayto, aged 29, both of Laburnum Grove, Portsmouth, also died.

Mr Elfer said other drivers told the police that Mr Inglis had been driving dangerously a little earlier. He had crossed a slowdown at 50 mph with-out slowing down for another car, and had driven within six inches of a car he wanted to overtake, sounding his horn impatiently.

His passengers, who were being thrown about in their seats, joined in; Mr Inglis made a V-sign at the driver who had not moved over and Ruth Barchelor mouthed the word "bastard".

Mr Michael de Navarro, for the defence, said Mr Inglis could remember nothing of the accident. Medical reports had proved that the loss of memory was genuine.

Mr Inglis's estranged wife, Frances, said: "He says his life ended at the accident. He wishes they had never revived him."

Yard men
end work
on hunt
for 'Ripper'

From Arthur Osman
Leeds

Commander James Nevill and Det Chief Supt Joseph Bolton of the Metropolitan Police have ended their involvement in the hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper. It was said in Leeds yesterday.

They are to prepare a report for Mr Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire. Mr Nevill declined to say what would go into the report but said: "I feel that in the past month we have accomplished a lot more than we hoped at the beginning. We are satisfied with what we have achieved."

The clue to the identity of the Ripper still lies with the public. He must be somewhere and he cannot be suspended in space."

Mr Gregory repeated his warning to women to be especially wary. He said the Scotland Yard officers had done what they came to do and had provided fresh suggestions and impetus to the inquiry. "It has been a very well worthwhile exercise."

The new leader of the squad of nearly 500 officers exclusively engaged in the hunt for the killer of 12 women is to be Det Chief Supt Peter Gilrain of Bradford. Det Chief Supt James Hobson of Leeds resumes as acting head of CID in West Yorkshire, pending the return to duty of Mr George Oldfield who has been absent since the summer with heart trouble.

It was said yesterday that Mr Oldfield would return as head of CID, but it was not stated whether he would resume his former position of being in charge of the Ripper inquiries.

Medium's help sought: The mother of a victim of the Yorkshire Ripper is to appear on television with a medium to try to get in touch with her husband, who died two months ago (the Press Association reports).

The medium, Mrs Doris Stokes, aged 59, thinks Jayne McDonald's father may be able to "play detective" now he is dead and may have fresh, important information.

Press body
upholds
complaint
by referee

A football referee's comments on the trouble-free state of the game in the United States and his concern with family sport in Britain did not justify a headline and report saying that he had switched his interests to speedway, the Press Council said yesterday.

It upheld a complaint by Mr Kenneth Aston, of Trinity Road, Ilford, Essex, that the Daily Express, having quoted remarks which he never made, failed to publish a retraction and apology. Mr Roger Kelly reported in the Daily Express under the headline "Aston changes sides" that Mr Aston was switching interests in an attempt to revive speedway at Dagenham, Essex, because hooliganism had driven him from football after 40 years.

Trouble-free sport, Mr Aston was quoted as saying, was "not soccer any more". He was on a tour of the United States, where, according to the report, he said that football was still a family sport.

Mr Aston's solicitors told the editor of the Daily Express that Mr Aston never mentioned football when the reporter telephoned him in the United States and the quotations were false.

Mr Aston told the council's complaints committee that he was used to choosing his words carefully when dealing with the press. He did not remember saying that he was switching his interest to speedway or changing sides, but agreed that he could have remarked on football being a family sport in the United States.

The Press Council's adjudication was:

Although the complainant stated in his interview that he was now interested in family sport and in trouble-free sport and drew a contrast with the position in the United States where, he said, soccer was still a family sport, the Press Council does not consider that these comments justified the use of the headline and the reporter's conclusion that Mr Aston had switched his interests. The complaint against the Daily Express is upheld.

Professor Blunt plans book

Professor Anthony Blunt "almost certainly" will write a book that may agree to act as a consultant for films or television. The self-confessed traitor said yesterday in written replies to questions from the Press Association: "I should certainly give my net proceeds to charity."

He felt very sorry for former spies such as Kim Philby, who fled to Moscow. "Although I have no evidence, I suspect that they are very unhappy there."

Professor Blunt, the "fourth man" in the Philby affair, has admitted he was a go-between

for the escape of Burgess and Maclean in 1951. Five years later he was again a messenger between Philby and the Russians.

He said that he was relieved rather than astonished at the offer of immunity made to him in 1964 in return for his cooperation with the security authorities.

He chose to stay on as the Queen's art adviser "because there was still work for me to do in connection with the Royal collection". He now felt shame at the embarrassment caused to the Queen.

Ring away merrily this Christmas, but spare a thought for the operator.

With Cheap Rate again on Christmas Day and Boxing Day (Christmas Day and New Year's Day in Scotland) for all inland calls, why not ring all your furthest and dearest with seasonal greetings?

But, please, bear one thing in mind.

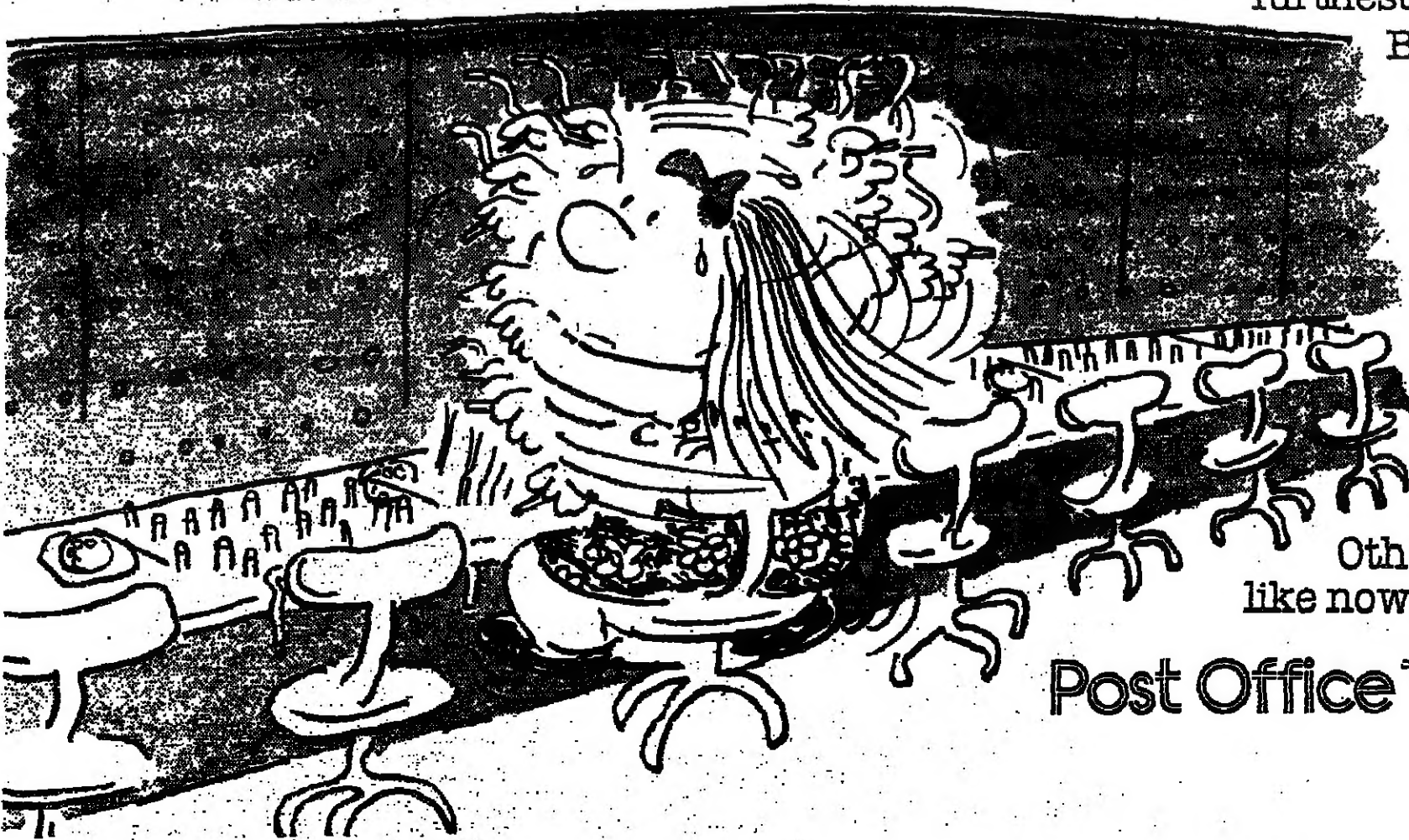
Many of our operators will be celebrating with their families, too.

So on Christmas Day (New Year's Day in Scotland) operators will deal only with 999 calls and others such as radiophone calls which cannot normally be dialled.

There will be no Directory Enquiry service but, of course, in cases of real distress operators will help with any type of call or enquiry.

Otherwise you can jingle bells as much as you like now the whole country's on STD.

Post Office Telecommunications



OVERSEAS

Ownership of W H Auden poetry manuscripts, notebooks and diary disputed in New York trial

From Michael Leppman
New York, Dec 20

A trial concerning the ownership of a valuable batch of W. H. Auden's poetry manuscripts and notebooks ended yesterday after a week of hearings in New York. The dispute is between the New York Public Library and a retired dentist who will be 87 next month.

The case was heard at the surrogate court, where legal issues concerning bequests are adjudicated. The two sides put in their final submissions by the end of next month to Mr. Millard Midonick, the surrogate, who will probably give his verdict in February.

The papers, estimated to be worth about £160,000, were bequeathed by Auden to Mr. Chester Kallman, a less successful poet who was Auden's lover for 30 years. After Auden's death in 1973, the papers were deposited in the New York Public Library's Berg Collection of Literary Manuscripts.

Mr. Kallman had wanted to donate the papers to the library but the contested point is whether the gift had been properly completed before Kallman himself died in 1975 at the age of 53. Dr. Edward Kallman, his father, is claiming the papers as his next of kin, since in his will Kallman left everything to Auden who was already dead.

Dr. Kallman's lawyers said that among the most important of his son's motives in making the gift to the library would have been the tax concession which he would thereby have gained. Since he was now dead that was no longer an applicable factor.

Lawyers for the library argued that the motive was not financial. They produced witnesses who said that Auden disapproved strongly of selling his private papers of literary

figures and that Kallman had shared his view.

The most important such witness was Professor Edward Mendelson of Columbia University, Auden's literary executor, who was the link man between Kallman and the library. On the witness stand Dr. Mendelson read out an Auden poem published in 1972, describing the age in which the public will shell out more cash for notebooks and sketches than were ever intended for them than for perfect works.

Mr. Mendelson, the surrogate, caught the literary mood. During a discussion on the long-term value of Auden's royalties, which were incontestably bequeathed to Kallman, he said: "Many centuries ago, some critic asserted that the poet Wordsworth, whom I've forgotten myself, would be remembered long after Milton is forgotten, but not until Milton is forgotten."

After this cryptic remark, Mr. Robert Zicklin, the lawyer representing Dr. Kallman, brought his case to earth by remarking: "The poetry business is unpredictable for income."

On the witness stand Dr. Lola Szladits of the Public Library, called the Auden papers one of the most important collections she had ever seen. They include a 1929 diary, some original manuscripts and typescripts of published poems and photographs. They are not especially voluminous since they can be fitted into a suitcase.

Mr. Michael Yates, a retired television designer of Gunter Road, London, W14, flew from England with his wife Margaret to give evidence. They said that they had heard Kallman state his intention of giving the papers to the library. Some of the most important

documents in the collection were in Auden's house in Kirchstrasse, Austria, when he died.

Kallman took them from there to London, where they were stored with other of his papers at the offices of Faber and Faber, Auden's publishers.

Dr. Mendelson had then removed from London to New York Public Library where, because of the litigation, they are not at present available to researchers. If Dr. Kallman wins his case, his lawyers said, he will probably sell the papers to a Texas university.

Observers, who have followed the proceedings from the beginning, say that the more likely outcome is for Mr. Midonick to let the New York Public Library keep the papers, but to find a way of assuring Dr. Kallman the tax concessions his son would have enjoyed had he lived to make the gift.

The surrogate's court in which the week's proceedings took place is the most flamboyant of many *Senex Arza* public buildings erected in New York around the turn of the century. The hearing room, ridiculously large for the half dozen people who were usually present, is paneled in intricately carved mahogany, with elaborate pine fireplaces at each end.

A pair of ornamental wooden stairs lead to a balcony in the form of a miniature gallery. Lighted by three tremendous crystal chandeliers resembling inverted funnels.

The audience of the proceedings combined to produce a pleasant atmosphere that is normal in American courtrooms. At the close of the hearing Mr. Midonick commented both lawyers on their skill in presenting their cases and concluded: "Thank you very much. I enjoyed it."

Sister of the Shah may abandon new US home

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, Dec 20

Princess Shams, the eldest sister of the deposed Shah of Iran, this week purchased a new home for \$1.5m (£680,000) in the exclusive beach community of Santa Barbara. But a spokesman for the Princess hinted that she may not move into the walled estate because of the publicity about the purchase.

According to legal documents filed in Santa Barbara, about 10 miles from Los Angeles, the house was once part of a 54-acre estate owned by the Armour meat packing family. The house, with about 6.5 acres, was bought by Mr. Byron Hayes, a Los Angeles lawyer, then transferred to another party, believed to be a fictitious name designed to hide the Princess's interest.

After reports of the purchase in *The Los Angeles Times* and a front page picture in the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* of the 38-room house behind locked gates, the Princess's spokesman for the Princess said: "It is well known that the Princess is distressed by the publicity and events that surround her life. She is in Beverly Hills last year. For that reason she has been seeking a less expensive home where she and her family could live in seclusion."

In January a mob of about 500 Iranian students stormed the Princess's house in Beverly Hills, smashing windows and starting fires. The Princess fled to Mexico. The incident, which led to the arrest of several students, was the subject of a report in the *Los Angeles Times* reported today in a front page story that when the Shah left Mexico for the United States he gave a written assurance by President José Lopez Portillo that he would be welcome back.

"Your home is always Mexico," Portillo said in a message to the White House in secret State Department cable at the time. "This is your country," he added. "You are always welcome. You can live anywhere in Mexico. We will give you security and asylum."

Missiles plan 'could upset troop talks'

Vienna, Dec 20.—The Soviet blockade of the city of Vienna to build medium-range missiles for deployment in Western Europe would complicate and undermine East-West negotiations on troops cuts.

The Soviet move, which has been strongly attacked last week's Nato decision, is the first warning that the negotiations in Vienna, which have been going on for six years, could be affected. "If Nato maintains this position, the chance of reaching agreements of benefit to all people will be gambled away," said a spokesman for the East German delegation, told by news conference at the talks adjourned for six weeks.

Delegates from the Warsaw Pact did not reject new Nato proposals put forward at the talks but sharply criticised them. They promised, however, that the West's call for symbolic United States-Soviet troop cuts as a first step would be carefully studied.

Herr Wieland hinted that the seven nations of the Warsaw Pact would examine Nato's reduction plan in the light of the Western alliance's decision to install 872 Pershing and cruise missiles in West Germany and elsewhere, giving the West the capability of hitting the Soviet Union with European based missiles for the first time.

In examining the proposals, the socialist states will, of course, have to take into consideration the effects of Nato's armament decisions, Herr Wieland said. The Nato nations at the talks said their plan for the withdrawal of about 13,000 United States and 30,000 Soviet troops from central Europe provided a basis for an early positive outcome in the negotiations.

Herr Wieland said Nato's decision to enlarge its missile force violated objectives agreed upon here in 1973. "The decision is a direct complication for the Vienna negotiations. The agreed subject of the negotiations will be undermined," he said. "After a first preliminary analysis, we are compelled to state that the Western participants have not made concessions in socialist states in any issue."

Herr Wieland said one Warsaw pact demand was that the forces of nine nations in central Europe should be frozen after United States-Soviet troop cuts, until a general agreement was reached. He also called for armaments to be reduced as well as troops. Nato has excluded armaments from its new plan.

Nato spokesmen played down the reaction of the Warsaw Pact. They said the attack was tactical rather than a substantive evaluation.—Reuter.



Israeli soldiers on watch outside the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

Soviet Baptists urged to oppose Nato weapons plan

From Michael Einyon
Moscow, Dec 20

Soviet Baptists today ended a three-day congress in Moscow at which they heard strong appeals for a halt to Nato's plans to deploy nuclear missiles in Europe and an optimistic report on the state of Baptist communities in the Soviet Union.

The meeting in the central Baptist prayer house in Moscow was the forty-second joint congress of the Union of Evangelical Christians, a predominantly Baptist body but which also includes Mennonites and representatives from Methodist and Pentecostal churches.

It was attended by 325 delegates and baptists from overseas. The visitors included the Rev. Dr. David Russell, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, the Rev. Robert Dennis, general secretary of the World Baptist Union, the Rev. Gerhard Klass of the European Baptist Federation and representatives from the United States and Eastern Europe.

A strong call was made on the opening day for Soviet Baptists to oppose the modernization of Nato's theatre nuclear forces. Metropolitan Juvenal, representing the Russian Orthodox Church, said Christians supported peace and disarmament and appealed to European leaders to adopt a constructive approach to détente in Europe.

Baptists are among the most vigorous of the religious groups in the Soviet Union and have grown rapidly in numbers in parallel with religious toleration in recent years. There are now about 500,000, with nearly half the membership in the Ukraine. There are also communities in Russia, Byelorussia and the Baltic republics, especially Estonia.

There are plans to open the first full-time residential seminary in Moscow soon, for the training of pastors. The six dissidents, members of the Committee for Persons Intensely Charged (Yons), an offshoot of Charter 77, include Petr Uhl, sentenced in five years in prison; Vaclav Havel, four years; Vaclav Benda, four years; Jiri Dienstbier, three years; Ota Bednarova, three years; and Dana Nemcova who received a suspended two-year sentence.

The six were charged with trying to bring disrepute to Czechoslovakia abroad. Mr. Tomlin signed the Charter 77 declaration establishing a group in 1977 to monitor Czech violations of the 1975 Helsinki accords.

Before the arrests, foreign diplomats, journalists and others gathered at the Prague-Pankrác prison to try to attend the proceedings. Police recorded their identities but then refused to allow them inside, saying the room was too small.

A diplomatic source said the appeal had not been formally announced in advance. It started behind closed doors this morning and was expected to last for a day. "No one, that is diplomats, press or Czechs who gathered before the court house, was able to get into the court room, apparently," the source added.—Agence France Presse, UPI.

Most of the country's newspapers were unable to give a full account of the court proceedings in Air Marshal Asghar Khan's case earlier this week. They were heavily censored.

Mr. Mahmud Ali Kasuri, chief counsel for the leader of the dissent Tehrik-e-Istislah, yesterday showed the court several newspaper clippings with the account of the case wholly and partly censored, and requested that contempt of court proceedings should be started against the authorities concerned.

Mr. Asghar Khan, the Chief Justice, who heads the three-member bench, directed the Advocate General to obtain assurance from the Punjab High Court that the court proceedings would not be censored and ordered that press censorship of court news should stop forthwith.

The Air Marshal's petition, which also questioned the validity of continuing martial law in view of the Supreme Court judgment in Begum Bhutto's constitutional petition, will now be heard on Saturday.

Phnom Penh 'is distributing aid to Kampucheans'

By Roger Barthoud

Miss Kathleen Bagen of the Catholic Association for Overseas Development has returned from eight days in Kampuchea convinced that the Phnom Penh government is making every effort to distribute Western aid, contrary to some press suggestions.

Inevitably there was some rockling in the port of Kampong Som and in Phnom Penh itself. "But to the best of my ability they are really getting it out," she said in London yesterday.

She based this view on the number of convoys she and her colleagues saw on provincial roads, the number of barges on rivers, and the constant flow of trucks out of Kampong Som and Phnom Penh.

Mr. Hun Sen, the Kampuchean Foreign Minister, asked her to convey his people's thanks for "your precious aid". On a visit to Takeo province, Miss Bagen was told by the administrator that the province's population, with over one million before the Pol Pot regime took over, was now estimated at 30,000. So far 108,776 bodies had been found. Miss Bagen said she saw mass graves holding between 300 and 2,000 bodies.

She said she saw no starvation but a lot of malnutrition, malaria and dysentery. "No Evidence": Mr. Brian Walker, Director General of Oxfam, said yesterday, according to the Press Association, "We have no evidence whatsoever to support the allegations of Vietnamese atrocities, thefts of aid supplies, or diversions of Kampuchean aid into Vietnam."

Hanoi refuses to receive emissary of Asean

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, Dec 20

Vietnam's refusal to receive Tunku Ahmad Rishauddin, the Malaysian Foreign Minister, as an emissary of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) is expected to lead to a modification of the alliance's policy on Kampuchea, Thai officials said here today.

At a meeting last week, Asean foreign ministers decided that the Tunku, while making a named visit to Hanoi next month, should also make Asean's first diplomatic approach to Vietnam in an effort to end the fighting in Kampuchea.

Vietnam has indicated that it will still welcome the Malaysian Foreign Minister's visit, but not as an Asean emissary. Asean had decided on the joint approach in response to Hanoi's request for a dialogue on Kampuchea. Vietnam's refusal is thought to be the result of Asean's prominent role at the United Nations in organizing world-wide condemnation of Vietnam's intervention in Kampuchea.

Asean diplomats believe the refusal will strengthen doubts—particularly in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines—about their Kampuchean policies and continuing recognition of the ousted Pol Pot regime. Even Singapore, which has been most vocal in its condemnation of Vietnam, seems to have second thoughts.

"We have our reservations about Pol Pot," one minister said after the Asean foreign ministers' meeting last week. In Thailand, Foreign Ministry officials are restating doubts originally expressed

months ago, when they said the Thai Government would have preferred to keep Kampuchea's United Nations seat empty rather than see it occupied by a Pol Pot representative.

The soldiers clashed with Vietnamese troops when they crossed into Thailand yesterday, the Supreme Command said in Bangkok today. The Vietnamese retreated when mortar and small arms fire was directed at them.

Kampuchean refugees who have just reached the Khao I Dang camp, eight miles from the border, are giving more details of the manner in which Vietnamese soldiers and civilians have taken over Kampuchea's economy.

They claim that soldiers and civilians accompanied by their families have moved into many areas of the country where they are growing food, running local markets and shipping food, livestock and other goods back to Vietnam.

Mr. Tray Lim Por, who lived for nine months under Vietnamese control in Phnom Penh, said Vietnamese civilians and soldiers' families were living in houses in Phnom Penh and on the Mekong river. He said he had seen them, including a family of pigs to Vietnam by ship and lorry every night.

Mr. Ou Ngoy, of Battambang, said he had seen Vietnamese families and their belongings, including pigs, chickens, even dogs, taken back to Vietnam. Another refugee said she had seen Vietnamese flying food away from Battambang, which is Kampuchea's richest food-producing area.

meas rushed forward, shouting at them to take care of themselves, but were stopped by military police. Mr. Kim Jae Kyu smiled at his sisters and brothers, then stepped forward, defendants from the courtroom. The sentences were handed down the day before the inauguration of President Choi Kyu Nah as Mr. Park's successor. Mr. Choi is expected to announce, in his inaugural address, a timetable for revision of the 1972 Yushin constitution, which Mr. Park wrote to ensure his one-man rule, and a presidential election.

The court said Mr. Kim Jae Kyu was "one of those who did his best to preserve the Yushin system." Before a sentence was passed Mr. Kim Jae Kyu, thanked the court martial panel and defence lawyers. "As I leave this world, I will keep with me this deep thanks to you all," he said.—AP, Agence France Presse, Reuter.

Leading article, page 13

Seven to die for killing President

Seoul, Dec 20.—A South Korean army court martial today sentenced seven men to death for the assassination of President Park Chung Hee. All seven, it said, committed treason against the nation and a people.

The court saved its harshest words for President Park's limited assassin, Kim Jae Kyu, former head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, who testified he had thought about killing the President since 1972 and finally murdered him on October 26 to restore democracy.

Five of the President's bodyguards were also killed while dinner in a Korean CIA "safe house". The five-member panel called Kim, aged 53, a traitor who dreamed up the alibi of restoring free democracy "to y to beautify his motive" which was to take over as President.

The court first announced ultra-quick verdicts against the seven defendants and then immediately sentenced them to death.

The Japanese Government is concerned that the emergence of rival political factions within the South Korean Army may ultimately undermine the country's ability to cope with the North Korean military machine. "We do not believe that North Korea will attempt to take advantage of the political situation at the moment," a senior official told the *Asahi* newspaper. "But the South Korean Army is now deeply involved in politics, and to events last week indicate the danger of coups and counter-coups in the army. If that happens South Korea's armed forces will be debilitated."

stely sentenced them to death. An eighth defendant was convicted of destroying evidence and sentenced to three years in prison.

Kim Kae Won, Mr. Park's secretary-general, who was seated at the same dinner table when the Korean leader was shot dead was among those sentenced to death. The other convicted were Mr. Choi, a former agent of the Korean CIA, Colonel Park Heung Jon, the KCIA director's aide and one of the agents who shot the president, and bodyguards after the assassination was condemned without right of appeal since he was in active military service. The others can appeal.

The defendants sat while the verdicts were read, but stood when the presiding officer, Lieutenant General Kim Yung Sun, announced the death sentences. Mr. Kim Jae Kyu and Mr. Kim Kae Won stared directly at the court without visible emotion.

Afterwards relatives of the

commander of the Third Army, Major-General Chung Byung Joo, commander of Korea's special forces.

"We are worried that if this continues the Army will split into rival factions and lose its character as a fighting machine," senior Japanese officials said.

South Korea's main ally, the United States, is also concerned over the revolt and the growing divisions within the armed forces.

The leaders of the coup moved the 9th Division from front-line reserve positions to Seoul without informing the United Nations Joint Command. Under military pacts in force, the American commander of

Indonesia frees last prisoners held without trial

Jakarta, Dec 20.—Indonesia today released the last prisoners held without trial since the abortive communist-backed coup in 1965. The 105 political detainees, including Pramudyo Anasua Tur, the most famous, were set free in the central Java capital of Semarang.

More than 500,000 people were arrested in the aftermath and about 480,000 others are officially believed to have died in military custody. The place in the confusion surrounding the attempted coup.

Most of the detainees, who were neither put on trial nor charged with any crimes, were freed fairly quickly, about 35,000 over the past five years. Reuter.

£11,000 for photograph
New York, Dec 20.—A record price for a photograph sold at auction has been obtained by a landscape taken about 30 years ago by Ansel Adams, the American photographer, which was sold for \$22,000 (£11,000) at Sotheby Parke Bernet in New York.

Albania draws inspiration from Stalin centenary

From Dossa Trevisan
Belgrade, Dec 20

Albania is drawing inspiration from the centenary of Stalin's birth to demonstrate its unwavering loyalty to his ideas and to question the Marxist credentials of all communist parties which have particular the Soviet Union, where the centenary is muted and not officially marked.

In Albania, Stalin was never denounced or renounced. The centenary is the only communist state where the Stalin cult was never dismantled and where Stalin remains infallible to this day.

While communist parties the world over are living down their Stalinist past, Albania proudly identifies itself with Stalinism and attacks all communist counter-revolutionaries for betraying the true revolutionary path.

The centenary in Albania is a state occasion and to commemorate it the country's leader, Mr. Enver Hoxha, has just published another volume with a glowing account of his meeting with Stalin. Dedicated to his memory and called: "With Stalin" it describes five

Mr Vorster has operation on an infected leg

From Our Correspondent
Johannesburg, Dec 20

Mr John Vorster, aged 64, the former South African State President and Prime Minister, has had a minor operation in a Port Elizabeth hospital for a leg infection. A hospital spokesman said today it was not known when he would be fit to leave.

On Sunday, Mr Vorster stood for half an hour to deliver a New Year's message to the nation. Although he was clearly in considerable pain, his left leg was heavily bandaged.

Mrs Tina Vorster said her husband had developed an inflammation between his toes which had spread into the leg.

UN voting marathon adjourns in deadlock

From Michael Leppman
New York, Dec 20

After a record 124 votes, the United Nations General Assembly has still not decided whether Cuba and Colombia will fill the Latin American seat in the Security Council on January 1.

Last night, after 12 votes in which neither country obtained the necessary two-thirds majority, delegates stopped voting for Christmas and will come back on Boxing Day to try again.

The number of votes needed varies slightly with each ballot because the requirement is for two-thirds of those actually voting and not of all the Assembly's 152 members. The target figure is generally in the high 90s and the nearest the Cubans have come to winning it with 95—four short of what they needed.

Cuba, with the support of the Soviet Union block and most of the developing countries, has led consistently since voting began early last month. But the Colombian, vigorously backed by the United States, have worked hard to sustain their just adequate body of supporters.

The previous record number of ballots was 52 in another left-right clash in 1959, when Poland and Turkey were the contenders. The Cuban position they agreed to split the two-year term, with Poland serving the first year and Turkey the second.

Colombia suggested a similar compromise after the first 60 ballots or so, but the Cubans rejected it, confident of the ultimate victory. It is possible, however, that Mr. Salim, the President of the General Assembly, will seek to revive the proposal if the voting on December 25 proves inconclusive.

Mr. Salim is one of the many parties for whom much is at stake in the normally routine electoral process which has this year turned into a fierce ideological battle. He is one of the favourites to succeed Dr. Kurt Waldheim the Secretary-General whose term expires in 1981 and he knows that if he brings this dispute to a successful conclusion it will be a mark in his favour.

It would be possible to run the Security Council with 14 instead of the usual 15 members but it has never been done before and Mr. Salim would face such an outcome as a defeat.

Mrs Gandhi is cleared in High Court case

Delhi, Dec 20.—The Delhi High Court today cleared Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former prime minister, of refusing to give evidence before the Government-appointed commission investigating alleged offences committed during her 21-month emergency rule.

In his judgment, the judge said that although Mrs. Gandhi had refused to make the statement before the commission, she had not been directed to take the oath, and therefore could not be held guilty of refusing to give evidence.

Mrs. Gandhi, who is campaigning for next month's general elections in Punjab, still faces two other charges, each carrying a maximum jail sentence of seven years. These relate to the alleged arrest of two people during the emergency and conspiring to obtain vehicles without payment for use in the 1977 general election.—Reuter.

Fear that Seoul army struggle may benefit North Korea

From Peter Hatzelburg
Tokyo, Dec 20

The Japanese Government is concerned that the emergence of rival political factions within the South Korean Army may ultimately undermine the country's ability to cope with the North Korean military machine. "We do not believe that North Korea will attempt to take advantage of the political situation at the moment," a senior official told the *Asahi* newspaper. "But the South Korean Army is now deeply involved in politics, and to events last week indicate the danger of coups and counter-coups in the army. If that happens South Korea's armed forces will be debilitated."

Japan's fears were roused when a group of conservative South Korean officers moved troops on to the streets of Seoul on December 12 and arrested General Chung Seung Hwa, the former Army Chief of Staff and Martial Law Administrator, and 16 other moderate generals and their aides.

The leader of the revolt, General Chon Tso Hwan, was a supporter of the authoritarian policies of the late President Park Chung Hee.

Seven of the more moderate generals who were arrested in last week's struggle for power are under house arrest or have been released.

Those still under arrest include General Chung Hui-tan, anti-General Lee Kou Yung,

the United Nations forces in South Korea is responsible for all troop movements.

"The Americans were not told that troops were being moved into Seoul to take part in the coup and they are extremely angry," a Western diplomat said.

The new South Government claims that General Chung and his aides were arrested because new evidence has emerged to implicate them in the assassination of President Park on October 26.

But President Park's assassin, Kim Jae Kyu, who was sentenced to death today, has consistently denied allegations that the deposed Chief of Staff was party to the plot.

The Army made another attempt today to justify last week's arrests. A spokesman for the armed forces told Japanese journalists that General Chung and two other senior officers had received £20,000 from President Park's assassin in October.

Seoul, Dec 20.—Mr Choi will be inaugurated as President tomorrow, 24 hours after a court sentenced his predecessor's assassins to death.

In a letter to Mr Choi before the inauguration, President Carter underlined his long-standing desire for the country to become more democratic.

Mr Carter failed to get President Park to loosen his grip on national life. Political sources said the Americans are insisting that the country not be allowed to slip back to repression.

Mr Vorster has operation on an infected leg

From Our Correspondent
Johannesburg, Dec 20

Mr John Vorster, aged 64, the former South African State President and Prime Minister, has had a minor operation in a Port Elizabeth hospital for a leg infection. A hospital spokesman said today it was not known when he would be fit to leave.

On Sunday, Mr Vorster stood for half an hour to deliver a New Year's message to the nation. Although he was clearly in considerable pain, his left leg was heavily bandaged.

Mrs Tina Vorster said her husband had developed an inflammation between his toes which had spread into the leg.

SEYCHELLES: ISLANDS OF TEARS!

Throughout its history nothing but glowing tribute was paid to the SEYCHELLES, some called it "the pearl of the Indian Ocean", "islands of Love and Laughter" etc. etc. Today these same islands can best be described as the Islands of tears, despair and terror. What happened?

We do not have sufficient funds to pay for an advertisement big enough to tell the whole sad story about development in SEYCHELLES since FRANCE ALBERT RENÉ in connivance with Tanzania ripped the Constitution on the 30th of June 1977 and overthrew the popularly elected Government of President James Mancham. Since then René, with the support of Tanzania, rules like a ruthless dictator. There is no opposition party; all named newspapers have been murdered; people have disappeared; children are being forced to go to an island for political indoctrination in the CASTRO style... and René's prisons are loaded with innocent individuals. Paradise has in fact turned into hell...

THE UNITED KINGDOM MOVEMENT FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM IN SEYCHELLES requests the British Government to stop all aid to Seychelles until all political prisoners are freed, democracy is restored and the Tanzanian soldiers go home.

Nicholas Ashford evaluates Mr Botha's first year as Prime Minister of South Africa

No corpse yet, but apartheid could be dying

Johannesburg. Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, has received plaudits from two unusual quarters during the past week. First the prestigious weekly journal *Financial Mail*, the mouthpiece of the country's predominantly English-speaking business community, nominated him as its "man of the year", saying that during his first year in office Mr Botha had created the impression of seeking to serve the interests of "all South Africa's peoples". Then an independent opinion poll published in one of the local newspapers revealed that 57 per cent of urban blacks thought Mr Botha was doing a good job as Prime Minister.

Such a response from two sections of the community which have been the traditional antagonists of successive Afrikaner nationalist governments will have undoubtedly pleased Mr Botha. For the past year he has been attempting to win their support for what he describes as his "total strategy", a strategy worked out in consultation with his military commanders for the defence of "Christian Western values" in Southern Africa. But for many conservative Afrikaners, whose interests the policy of apartheid is specifically designed to serve, the Prime Minister is becoming dangerously revisionist not only in his words but increasingly in his actions as well.

For the business community proved relatively easy to woo. For years the captains of industry have wanted to be loved by the nationalist government but invariably found their overtures were spurned by a

ruled elite whose attitudes to big business were still rooted in the Afrikaners' post-Boer war mistrust of Anglo-Saxon/Jewish economic imperialism. Yet suddenly the businessmen were confronted by a prime minister who not only wanted their backing but was prepared to speak out as he did when he addressed 300 top businessmen in Johannesburg last month, in favour of free enterprise and a reduction of state involvement in the economy. The response of the businessmen was almost uncritically favourable. Even Mr Harry Oppenheimer, the biggest businessman of them all who is also the chief backer of the white opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP), spoke of Mr Botha's "imagination and charm" adding that he saw more hope for South Africa now than he had for many years.

The blacks have proved much more sceptical. They want to see Mr Botha's words matched by actions before they are prepared to let themselves be wooed. It is all very well for Mr Botha's Minister of Cooperation and Development, Dr Piet Koorhof, to declare that "apartheid is dead". But as Bishop Desmond Tutu, the secretary-general of the South African Council of Churches, remarked, they "want to see the corpse first".

Nevertheless some of Mr Botha's actions, such as his visits to tribal "homelands" and to Soweto, the changes in the laws on black townships, and the progressive ending of statutory job reservation, have made an impact. The black newspaper *The Post* recently commented that although it may yet save South Africa's white nation from destroying itself through greed and the



Mr Botha—a total strategy; and Bishop Tutu—where's the corpse?



desire to maintain privilege at the expense of our people's dignity. Even such a vocal opponent of Mr Botha as Mokone, the Soweto black consciousness leader, while rejecting most of what Mr Botha has said and done as being "cosmetic", nevertheless conceded that the prime minister had brought about a significant change in white attitudes. "We must be thankful for small mercies", he said.

But are the changes which have taken place in the laws and the group areas Act, the removal of job reservation, in fact, largely symbolic as it had already become obsolete. Employers and white unions have found more subtle ways of discriminating against black workers. Mr Botha's announced intention to give more territory to the "home-

lands" does not get over the fact that the whole "homeland" system is anathema to South Africa's black majority. But there have been some important changes. Perhaps the most striking is the general improvement in the political atmosphere of the country. First, Mr Botha has pulled the nation (and in particular his own party) out of the morass into which it had fallen with the department of information scandal. This is important because for some months the government had become virtually paralysed by the damage

caused by the information department scandal. Mr Botha has also reduced the air of tension in the country. Although the apparatus of repression remains intact, it is not being put into use as extensively as it was under Mr John Vorster, the disgraced former prime minister. There have been far fewer bannings this year and the number of terrorism trials is down by over a half compared with 1978. In this more relaxed atmosphere new black consciousness organizations are beginning to reappear, for the first time since the government's clamp-down in October 1977.

Of potentially greater long-term significance is the fact that Mr Botha has loosened the strings of the apartheid straitjacket which had effectively stifled political debate for the past three decades. Although apartheid is still very much the official policy of the government, people both inside the National Party and without are discussing the different ways this policy may develop, and—in the law of some public dis-asterously destroy itself. "Confederations" and "constellations" are now the vogue words in political circles.

It is clear that Mr Botha himself has no long-term vision as to where he is leading the country. He is not an intellectual, a man of blueprints. Instead he is seeking ways of streamlining apartheid, of making it more widely acceptable so that his government can have the maximum support in the face of the Marxist-led threat from beyond South Africa's borders. The key element in this strategy is to give blacks a stake in the system which will

encourage them to defend it. But he has no desire to such a way the door to the black man's monopoly of political power. Mr Botha's strategy is to try to divide the blacks between those who are entitled to "reside permanently" in "white areas" and those whose homes are in the "homelands".

By raising the status of urban blacks, by improving their material conditions and eliminating some of the worst aspects of discrimination, he hopes to bring the black vote "on side". However, well-kept, ambivalent, and will be hoped to be the "loyal" in Soweto-style, more than the deprived, discriminated-against children who work the streets in June 1976. They would also have a vested interest in preserving their higher standards of living against the threat of the "imposed" borse living in the "homelands".

The Whitehead recommendations on trade union reform and the Black Paper on labour mobility have been designed to make apartheid more acceptable and more efficient (and also, significantly, to re-emphasize the government's control over its urban black population). Perhaps Mr Botha's most important contribution so far has been to recognize that apartheid, if it is to survive in the last quarter of the twentieth century, has to accommodate some economic facts of life. This means having more mobile and more skilled workforce to allow the country to make full use of its highly increased income from gold. It also means expanding the size of the domestic market by putting more spending money in black pockets. The planned electrification of Soweto is not being done to give the inhabit-

ants street lights but to enable them to buy colour television sets and washing machines. This is the sort of logic which appeals to the business community which explains why they were such a compliant audience when they met the Prime Minister in Johannesburg. Many of Mr Botha's Afrikaner supporters, however, have been shocked and angered by what they regard as a major and unwelcome shift in government policy. Although Mr Botha bravely managed to win the party's grudging approval for his new style of government, the recent round of party congresses, many rank-and-file Afrikaners made it clear to him they were unhappy about the way the party and country were going. This disaffection has been reflected in a recent series of by-elections which showed that the party was losing support both to the right-wing Hereside Nationale Party and to the PFP on the left.

Unlike Mr Vorster, who was too timid to follow through the pragmatic approach he once experimented with, Mr Botha has had the courage to introduce reforms even at the expense of losing support of some party loyalists. But he hopes he will be able to compensate for these losses by bringing the English-speaking business community as well as coloured Asians and urban blacks into the nationalist laager.

If he succeeds, this would not only radically alter the face of the National Party but possibly, in the longer term, the country as well. Although it may not be his intention, Mr Botha may have set in motion a process of change that he and his successors will not be able to stop.

The curtain rises once more on Helsinki's Final Act

In his speech to the recent congress of the Social Democratic Party in Berlin, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, spoke of the cultural and industrial community of all Europe, east and west. He bracketed Oxford, Prague and the Sorbonne, Cluny, Zagorak and Bergen, Novgorod, Cassechowa, Aschen and Weimar, and the industrial centres of Lancashire, the Ruhr and the Donets basin. We have a common culture, he said, and a common fate.

The same vision is incorporated in the Helsinki Final Act, that lengthy and much disputed document signed by 35 states in 1975. It was a diplomatic compromise but potentially it is a charter for European relations embodying the hope that the massive armed confrontation which now divides the continent can be very slowly overcome by opening up contacts of all sorts—economic, cultural, personal, political and even military—among the states of east and west. This is the context of the much publicised passages making the point that peace in Europe cannot be secured without respect for human rights.

So far results have been modest, though distinctly visible. Among other problems, there are fears on both sides of Europe that too rapid granting of full rights in eastern Europe would destabilise the precarious order on which European peace has been based since the war. But the Final Act will have to be kept alive as a reference point and source of pressure for something like 20 years before its value can be properly judged.

The Act comes up for its second review next year. The meeting will be in Madrid, and the Governments concerned are already deep into preparatory consultations. The first review was in Belgrade in 1977-8. It was largely dominated by the confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union over human rights. Some west European governments, and more especially the neutrals and non-aligned, were dismayed.

They had hoped for more

The first review was dominated by a confrontation over human rights

concrete results, particularly in extending military confidence-building measures, but the Americans argued that the whole point of a review meeting was to review implementation and this could not be done without frank criticism. Officials of the State Department still claim that although it was not a happy meeting it was successful.

These transatlantic differences of approach still persist. They were aired at a recent conference of the Aspen Institute in Berlin attended by officials, human rights experts and others from the United States, Canada and western Europe. For many Americans, as they frankly admit, the Final Act is still primarily a document which legitimizes international discussion of human rights.

It was conveniently to hand when President Carter started work on the moral rehabilitation of the United States after Vietnam and Watergate. It was taken up by liberal human rights groups and gradually by right-wingers who abandoned their wholly erroneous view that it legitimized the division of Europe and found instead that it was a useful stick with which to beat the Russians.

It was hardly noticed by the arms control experts although it is explicitly concerned with security and contains provision for the notification of military manoeuvres as part of the wider towards greater mutual confidence and transparency. Nor were European concerns widely understood. State Department experts were overshadowed by the presidential appointment of Mr Arthur Goldberg as leader of the American delegation.

For Europeans the Final Act is more a political than a legal document. As West German remarked at the Aspen confer-

ence, the review meeting is not a district court at which the Russians are on trial. Nobody could be more concerned with human rights than the West Germans but for them the main question is how to negotiate practical results, which means that the Russians have to get something out of the process as well.

Another West German pointed out that the pursuit of principle led to the cold war, whereas the pragmatism of the German Ostpolitik brought real progress in expanding contacts and reducing tensions.

The Atlantic Alliance is now trying to bridge these differences. Americans at the Aspen conference certainly want home with a fuller understanding of European views, so that with luck and further effort there could be more Atlantic harmony at Madrid than there was at Belgrade. But some differences of approach under a general agreement may be healthy.

As great a problem at the moment is how to digest the French proposal for a European disarmament conference. This was first put forward by President Giscard d'Estaing at the 1978 United Nations disarmament conference. Addressed to the other 34 signatories of the Final Act, it was an effort to bring France back into the arms control debate without abandoning objections to the Vienna talks on troop reductions.

It is imaginative and up to date in that it reflects widely shared disquiet with efforts to limit numbers of troops and weapons in relatively meaningless areas and looks instead for broad confidence-building measures covering areas from the Atlantic to the Ural. It is designed primarily to reduce the danger of surprise attack by conventional forces.

The problem for Madrid is that the French proposal could

take up so much time and attention that human rights would be pushed to one side. This would please the Russians, for although they dislike the geographical extent of the French plan they would love to spend Madrid talking about military security instead of human rights. Mr Brezhnev has already proposed extending confidence-building measures to include notification of major troop movements, and there are other Soviet proposals floating around.

On the western side mixings still linger. The French want the Madrid meeting to set up an expert group with a mandate to discuss military security. They seem to envisage it taking decisions on its own, and some of their officials say they would be satisfied if this were the only expert group to emerge from Madrid.

The Americans could not agree to human rights being overshadowed in this way. Nor could other west Europeans, who insist on the need for a balanced result reflecting the delicate balance of the Final Act itself.

The foreign ministers of the Nine, meeting in Brussels on November 20, issued a cautious statement saying that they support an approach aiming at the adoption, at Madrid itself, of a mandate setting the conditions in which negotiations can be opened on establishing by common agreement significant confidence-building measures of the military level. But they also "reject the idea of a détente reduced to its military aspects" and say they "intend to maintain its balance".

Here the matter rests for the time being but it is far from solved. For instance, if there were general agreement at Madrid on military proposals, would it be right to refuse consent because there had been no progress on human rights? Would it be right to trade concessions in one area for gains in another? And what is a proper balance? These are some of the knotty problems that will occupy officials between now and the autumn's meeting in Madrid.

Richard Davy

Geoffrey Smith

Has the U-turn already happened?



Geoffrey Howe: It was essential to perform in office what had been promised in opposition

expected not only to remove any possibility of economic growth in the next year or so, but to lead to an actual decline in the national income. There will be no surplus to be passed on to the taxpayer, and the pursuit of sound money has to take precedence over the search for incentives.

It is not quite clear whether this is still the prevailing doctrine. The new round of public expenditure cuts now under discussion in Whitehall must be designed in the first instance to bring the public sector borrowing requirement under control and to pave the way for a reduction in interest rates. Will it be able to provide for more tax cuts?

The answer matters a good deal politically. The next budget is in any case expected to include reforms in company taxation. But necessary though they may be, economic terms, they will not provide

political excitement to compare with reductions in personal taxes. They will not, therefore, serve to ease the public impression of an administration of opportunity and incentives.

Mr Thatcher sometimes talks of having a programme for two or three Parliaments. In this sense the right, taking into account how slow a process it is to change the course of any highly industrialised society. But political decisions have to bear political time-tables in mind as well. In order to deploy her skills in the next Parliament, Mrs Thatcher has first to win the next election. This must be held by the spring of 1984 at the latest, and the most reasonable estimate at this time is that barring unforeseen developments the most likely date is the autumn of 1983. Perhaps it might even be in the spring of that year. Whichever it is,

there will either be no 1983 budget in this Parliament or it will be produced in very much a pre-election atmosphere—with any tax cuts then being largely discounted as a transparent political manoeuvre.

So there can at most be no more than a few small changes in the annual budget during this Parliament. In 1980, 1981 and 1982, if the Conservatives are to go to the country next time as the party of incentives that they presented themselves as being. Mrs Thatcher will need to cut personal taxes—not necessarily by much, but by enough to give the public the feeling that the process is being maintained—in at least two of those three budgets. It would be a nice touch, too, that people would regain a warm glow from the memory of the Government's first budget, especially as they would be more likely to recall the increase in indirect taxes, say nothing of mortgage interest and soaring rates than the cut in income tax.

This choice on personal taxes is critical for the way in which the Government presents itself for the rest of its term of office. It is believed that with the spending cuts now being prepared, there is a reasonable chance of further income tax reductions in one of the next two budgets than there is of any other kind of change in ministerial rhetoric. But if this is not judged to be possible the Government would be wise to recognize the political implications now. It would mean that what had begun in the public eye as an administration of opportunity and enterprise had become an administration of the hair-shirt.

This would not leave the Government without any claim to public approval, especially if it did manage to curb inflation. But if the prospect for further tax cuts is thought to be as bleak as that it would be better to make a virtue of it, to emphasize that the hopes of happier days had had to be abandoned, not just for the moment but for some years to come, and to proclaim the danger facing the country in the darkest possible terms, and to hope to gain whatever political reward might be obtained from avoiding the worst rather than achieving the best.

BETHLEHEM DIARY

Season of gloom and discontent

As the not-so-little Arab town of Bethlehem prepares to celebrate its twelfth successive Christmas under Israeli military occupation, the attention of the security forces has inevitably turned to the distinctly un festive subject of urban terrorism.

Just as the biting winds blowing in from the Judean hills and the sprouting of tasteless displays in the windows of brightly lit Arab souvenir shops are sure reminders that Christmas Eve is fast approaching, so is the ostentatious burst of Israeli military activity. For days, soldiers have been taking up positions on the rooftops of all the buildings overlooking the impressive sixth century church built on the spot where tradition has it that Jesus was born nearly 2,000 years ago.

Scores of extra troops armed with Uz sub-machine guns and automatic rifles have already been drafted into the area, and on December 24, they will be joined by low flying helicopters and undercover men who will mingle with the expected

crowd of 20,000 Christian pilgrims. Two years ago, Palestinian extremists succeeded in detonating a bomb while the festive season was in full swing, and only last month they provided a chilling reminder of their presence when a large device was defused only minutes before it was due to explode under a crowded bus near the town centre.

In Manger Square as in Oxford Street, London, the seasonal glitter (many would say "rat") and the prospect of world-wide publicity seem to have an irresistible attraction for the bombers, be they from an extreme wing of the Palestine Liberation Front or the Provisional IRA.

The house of bread

This year in Bethlehem (a name which means literally "the house of bread") the concern of the Israeli security forces is as great as at any time since the town was seized in 1967 war. Arab unrest throughout the West Bank has been whipped up by a number of factors, the most significant being last month's arrest of Bassam Shakka, the populist Mayor of Nabulus, the

continuation of an aggressive government-backed policy of Jewish settlement and the ravages of an inflation now exceeding 120 per cent. As readers of *The Times* will know, the Christmas programme in Bethlehem had already been cancelled earlier this month until the Israeli Government performed a remarkable somersault and sanctioned the reinstatement of Mr Shakka and the cancellation of his deportation order.

Arab funds which would have provided the budget had been frozen because of the protest resignation of the Mayor, Elias Freij and his council. Although the success of the campaign against the deportation order was seen as an unprecedented triumph for Palestinian unity on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, the jubilation in Bethlehem and other occupied towns was short-lived.

"Because of the political situation, this will be a very gloomy Christmas for the Palestinian people," explained Mr Freij, who at the age of 60 is regarded as one of the most moderate and pro-Jordanian of the West Bank leaders.

"How can we be expected to be cheerful when the Israelis are still seizing our lands and trying to impose a so-called

not guilty, mild; but we plead extenuating circumstances..."



autonomy scheme on us against our will?" Runaway inflation has added to the sense of discontent, with talk of any of Bethlehem's 30,000 inhabitants. Again and again I

was given examples of how Arab life in the occupied territories were allegedly being hit harder than the Israelis, who in the case of Bethlehem, live less than three miles away. "The reason is very simple, you don't have to be an economist to understand," said one angry shop keeper. "We Arabs earn less, our wages are not usually linked to the cost of living index and we do not receive the inflation-linked welfare benefits given to the Israeli."

Militancy and resentment

Predictably, the resentment is strongest among the 10,000 refugees living in Dheisheh camp on the outskirts of Bethlehem and among the 800 students at the town's Vatican-supported university. But militancy is also to be found among Bethlehem's more prosperous citizens, often manifesting itself in the type of slogans which seem to have become universal wherever the tongue being used to express them. I asked one well-groomed Arab secretary whether she or her friends ever spoke to the Israeli soldiers who maintain a permanent presence in the town. "No now, and never in the future," she replied.

Still portrayed by hymn and Carol singers as a small haven of peace lying, as Philip Brooks once put it, in a "dreamless sleep, as the silent stars go by," present day Bethlehem is in fact a thriving industrial centre. Although few observers would go as far as Mayor Freij, who likes to describe it as "the Sheffield of Palestine", it boasts a surprising range of industries from distilleries for a potent local brand of arak, to the only two mosaic factories in the occupied territories.

Grandiose schemes

The mainstay of the local economy are the 200 workshops involved in producing the distinctive local olive wood carvings and in re-working metal of peace which is imported from the borders of Argentina. There are also 30 knitting factories and narrow streets lined with noisy workshops producing furniture, memorabilia and dolls. The extent of light industry has kept unemployment down to a minimum and along with the one million annual tourist and schemes of Mr Freij, it con-

tinues to give Bethlehem much more than a small atmosphere of peace lying, as Philip Brooks once put it, in a "dreamless sleep, as the silent stars go by," present day Bethlehem is in fact a thriving industrial centre. Although few observers would go as far as Mayor Freij, who likes to describe it as "the Sheffield of Palestine", it boasts a surprising range of industries from distilleries for a potent local brand of arak, to the only two mosaic factories in the occupied territories.

Since May, the town has been dominated by an incongruous five-storey building combining municipal offices, restaurant and tourist information bureau which sits at the opposite end of Manger Square from the Church of the Nativity. Known locally as "the palace", the building is designed to resemble a British fortress and comes complete with an Italian-style piazza and elaborate furnishings of the type often referred to by critics of the Middle East as "Louis Farouk".

Although not to everyone's taste, the municipal complex is Mr Freij's pride and joy, and he insists that it enhances the "Christian character" of the town. Plans are now afoot to follow it with a scheme to reconstruct the town and to connect it to the sea and to the coast, which would join the town and town it into a vast urban area. A combined municipal complex with a 500-room hotel would be erected on the outskirts of the town to take the tourists.

As with the previous "improvement" scheme, the indefatigable Mr Freij (who is a Grand Orthodox) intends to appeal to Christians throughout



Mr Freij: Christian appeal to the world to raise the necessary finance. But he is not confident of success. Speaking with uncharacteristic bitterness, Mr Freij told me: "They are prepared to give money to Major Haddad in Lebanon to buy guns, but not to us. The Christians are pay lip service on Christmas Eve when they sing 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' but 48 hours later they have forgotten the place."

Christopher Walker



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NATION OF HOME OWNERS

modious modern residences available to occupiers, gage guaranteed, extensive over docks, lift in service ten on the twentieth floor is going to be shifted into the re sector even by the incised outlined in the comprehensive.

Housing Bill published today. The Bill puts the issue using squarely back into the ory of matters hotly ted between the parties, a ry it passed out of in the d after 1974, though the of that bashful consensus unately never took legisla- have, but it is a Bill whose is outweigh the difficulties create.

Bill's main purpose is to council tenants the right to re house they live in, or to long lease if they live in it. It provides for discounts to 50 per cent, related to umber of years the buyer en a council tenant, and it nees a mortgage broadly buyers who can afford the ments. It fulfils a direct sto pledge, and if it is use of on the scale hoped will probably bring about rger redistribution of ces from the public to the e sector than any other al the Government has in

ay therefore be a measure ric importance. There is for doubt as to whether it ork on the hoped-for scale, w of the present state of rtage market and the less apurious rate of take-up in

is an interesting compari- be drawn between South s hesitant move away from t of Park Chung Hee and t move from the era of "se-tung. The comparison seem perverse if the past years alone are examined. a thousand or more years rious political tradition ar weight their influence to be weighed against a thirty.

re time of the Korean War easy to read East Asia as divided between commu- and anti-communists: on e China, North Korea and stinsh guerrillas; on the Japan, Taiwan, South and the French-supported Government. e divisions faded with the ce in Korea and the Sino-dispute. They were re- in the sixties by an obvious divide, with gal-capitalist growth facing al and bureaucratic slug- s. The Chinese are now o willing to admit that economy lost ground all t the years of Maoist- ted struggle. ide the divisions of the erty years and common s emerge between China th Korea. Both countries e same sort of crisis in a leader. The long of the Confucian state its failure to contrive s transfers of power. Chinese dynasty suc- another by civil war or w from outside. Succes- one emperor to another is violent. Neither nor Korea (North or has yet evolved a form of at can avoid this kind of

or foreign students

W. E. Ormerod
Government expect to save y making foreign students full value of their univer- sities, although this appears otial saving, it entails pol- sses which need to be e. Some assessment can be from the use that Warsaw untries make of university.

Soviet Union (population are about 700,000 in some 60 universities, the United Kingdom there 000 students in 44 univer- sities. In 1969, the Parice Peoples Friendship Uni- was created specifically iming and indoctrinating from the Third World: s staff is 1,500 and students Liverpool University, for com- has 970 staff and 1,700 stu- the Soviet Union thus gives y education to a smaller y of its nationals than our- yet is prepared to make arrangements for Third students.

ngs with medical graduates of "Lumumba", abroad courses in this school, sug- at academic standards are t there is evidence that ties now recognize this by more foreign students to universities. correspondent, Mr Timothy s (November 22) suggests standards and lack of free- y defeat the objective of rsaw Pact in providing free n, yet it is likely that authoritarian regimes and educational opportunity d World are such powerful rtes that low standards e accepted by prospective e. oubtedly the higher standards h universities have futher n important advantage, but at all outside is to be d, the attraction of fully sub- courses from universities of

areas where Conservative councils have already been energetic in promoting the sale of their stocks. But, if it does, it will drastically alter the pattern of ownership and the social role of public housing. Its effects will be mixed, far-reaching and irreversible.

It is clear that many council tenants wish they could have houses of their own; a recent survey by the National Consumer Council found that 43 per cent of them expressed that preference. Many housing authorities are reluctant to concede the right to buy (not only for doctrinaire reasons: an inquiry recently made by Shelter suggested that about a third of Conservative councils also resist it). So the only way to ensure that all tenants who wish to buy may do so is to remove the council's right to block sales. This withdraws a very important discretion from local government—more important than the discretion to set rent levels taken away by the 1972 Act and later restored: once sold, houses are gone for good.

Some tenants will always be unable for one reason or another to take on the responsibilities of ownership. Local authorities have a statutory duty to house homeless people in their areas. The enfranchisement of tenants may tend to leave councils with their less attractive properties on their hands and thus reinforce both the discomforts and the stigma of poverty. The Bill takes note of some extreme cases by safeguarding housing specially adapted for the old and handi-

apped, and housing in areas of natural beauty vulnerable to the weekend cottage market (the safeguards in the latter case are quite inadequate, however).

The problem is much wider, but in most areas it is unlikely that sales will be so many that the council will actually be unable to fulfil their responsibilities. Some homes whose new owners may be unable to maintain them adequately may pass into the owner-occupied sector (which already today includes a disturbing amount of housing in poor condition). The welcome relaxation proposed in red tape surrounding grants for repair and improvement may help to reduce the risk.

These dangers are real, but they are dangers worth incurring for the sake of achieving a major shift of economic power into the hands of the individual, with all that means in terms of self-respect, freedom and mobility. The Bill is in effect a programme to extend the area of the bourgeoisie, even at the cost of sharpening to some extent the difference between the property-owning majority and a minority which, because smaller, can be assisted by the rest of society with less misdirection of resources. Other proposals in the Bill should do much to mitigate the bureaucratic vexations of life on a council estate. The Bill is a bold gesture of confidence in a particular idea of society. It should be of benefit to many: but society has a duty to ensure that the advantages of the many are not bought at the cost of greater hardship for the few.

upheaval. In the past this could be explained away by moral failure; in the twentieth century western democracy as a mode of government is an example that can no longer be ignored. Both countries are now wrestling with it. In China, in 1976 the secretly planned arrest of the gang of four avoided the risk of much worse violence. In Korea the outcome is still uncertain. Certainly the assassination of President Park came as a complete surprise. Events since then in Seoul have been as much hidden from the outside world as have any machinations in the Chinese polity. In both countries the need for change was strongly felt. In neither did there exist any electorate or representative assembly that could give effect to it.

After three years the Chinese leaders are at least insisting that the affairs of the communist party shall be conducted by democratic and constitutional rules, not by Maoist gerrymandering. Beyond the party itself any more widespread power granted to electors is shirked as likely to lead to "anarchy". Behind the convenient screen of "democratic centralism" the old totalitarian instincts live on. The same may be true of Korea where President Park and no doubt many of the generals looked upon political freedom as much too risky to play with.

Yet the demand may be just as strong as it has been shown to be in China. It would be surprising if a highly educated urban middle class such as has multiplied in two decades of economic growth will be content once again to knuckle under the Warsaw Pact becomes irresistible. The Government should consider carefully the political consequences of withdrawing the subsidy and the probable effect of this action in ensuring that future leaders of the Third World have been educated in communist universities. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, W. E. ORMEROD, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, WC1, December 11.

Policy for prisons

From Mr Edward Healy

The Times today (December 15) that the Prison Officers' Association dictate policy to the Home Office, this is not so. Like any other pressure group, they merely influence

prison policy.

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD HEALY, Principals' Officer, HM Prison, Walton, Liverpool.

Assisted places scheme

From the Reverend Tony Crowe

Sir, I cannot agree with the views expressed by my old Headmaster at Clifton, Sir Desmond Lee (December 10). The government scheme for assisted places at independent schools is plainly immoral. It will cream off the brightest pupils from our comprehensive schools, be- come a disastrous, and perpetuate the class divisions in our society. Many of our state schools need drastic improvements. Some provide outstanding education. In 1978, at our local comprehensive, Woodhouse, we attained 8 "A" levels, 7 at grade A.

Why should the taxpayer support public schools, which can become recruiting grounds for the Tory Party? The present Headmaster of

From the Subdean of Lincoln

Sir, Dissidents, it seems, are as welcome in Rome as in Poland. The renaissance of the Holy Office as a court of discipline in the matter of Professor Schillebeeckx has now been highlighted by the deprivation of Professor King of his right to teach as a Catholic theologian. The Schillebeeckx issue has already provoked comment. Among a number of issues, two, at least, have, so far, not been stated.

Last year and during this year the debate in the Church of England over the ordination of women and then the admission to altar in England of canonically ordained women from other provinces of the Anglican Communion provoked one explicit argument among many. It was, briefly, that in the present ecumenical climate there was a risk of jeopardising the relations of the Church of England with the Roman Catholic Church (and Orthodox Churches) by pursuing the ordination of women.

Incidentally, a curiously insular notion anyone gives that the Church of England must accept some degree of solidarity with its partner Provinces which have already ordained women. The argument, however, was put with considerable Now I think it is equally fair to say that the present disciplinary notions in the Vatican alarm me greatly.

If those who make a case against the ordination of women on the ground of a greater desire for conversations with Rome do not equally feel uneasy, then it is important that some of us say how seriously we see this drift. Those of us who care about the principles of dissidence which were, in a deep way, the stuff of Reformation, should not be indifferent to the situation of Schillebeeckx and King, nor to the kind of obstacles it puts for us in ecumenical setting.

For, secondly, the ecumenical climate of today is a climate of renewal as much as unity. There are several aspects to renewal in the churches. Among these is the emergence of the laity as an essential ingredient in church affairs; another is the increasingly committed and social involvement of the laity in the churches; a third, for me, is the charismatic renewal. But a fourth is the rediscovery of theology as a task for the contemporary Christian—an expectation that the theologian must learn to work in his or her context and not in a vacuum, with a few historical texts and arguments. Both Professor Schillebeeckx and Professor King have richly contributed to that theological renewal and are, therefore, to be seen as serious allies in the ecumenical struggle for renewal and unity.

The struggle made more difficult by the sectarian attitude of the Vatican. Fortunately, Professor King does not cease, today, to be an eminent theologian for me. Yours sincerely, REK DAVIS, The Subdean, Lincoln Yard, Lincoln, December 19.

Sacred or profane

From Dr Martin Pulkrook

Sir, As we enter the "Christmas season" Christians must of course be aware of the proper reaction should be to the trivial and hedonistic commercialisation which passes today for a great religious festival. How is it possible to reassess the spiritual and religious importance of Christmas against such an unhelpful, even hostile, background?

I should like to suggest one way in which this might be done. The original choice of late December for Christmas was an expedient of the early Church, based on the Roman holiday of the Saturnalia held at the end of the year. As so often happens when expediency, not truth, is a motive, the effects of choosing late December, with its pre-existent secular emphasis, have rebounded in full on the church.

Modern scholarship tends towards the view that Jesus was born in midsummer. Would it be possible for the Churches to readjust the religious year so as to hold Christmas celebrations, on say, the first Sunday in June?

The "December holiday" in the last week of the year would no doubt continue to exist in its own right as a time of merriment and feasting, and Christmas in July would be a beautiful, wholly religious festival, dedicated to the concept of spiritual renewal and rebirth.

Yours faithfully,

MARTIN PULKROOK, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland.

No runs

From Mr H. R. Harvey

Sir, Following England's disastrous start in their first innings in the current Test Match when their numbers one and two—Boycott and Randall—both failed in score, I thought it might be interesting to see if this had happened in an England test innings before.

I can only find one instance—Suncliffe and Paynter in England's first innings against New Zealand at Christchurch in 1933. Can any reader find another example?

Yours faithfully,

H. R. HARVEY, 4 The Close, Bromfield, Herefordshire, Herefordshire, December 15.

Heavenly dogmatics

From Miss Daphne Green

Sir, When God reads Barth, do the angels listen politely, eavesdrop or hasten away to sing Mozart instead?

Yours sincerely,

DAPHNE GREEN, 4 Ivers Gardens, W8, December 10.

Answering Vatican charges

From the Subdean of Lincoln

Sir, Dissidents, it seems, are as welcome in Rome as in Poland. The renaissance of the Holy Office as a court of discipline in the matter of Professor Schillebeeckx has now been highlighted by the deprivation of Professor King of his right to teach as a Catholic theologian. The Schillebeeckx issue has already provoked comment. Among a number of issues, two, at least, have, so far, not been stated.

Last year and during this year the debate in the Church of England over the ordination of women and then the admission to altar in England of canonically ordained women from other provinces of the Anglican Communion provoked one explicit argument among many. It was, briefly, that in the present ecumenical climate there was a risk of jeopardising the relations of the Church of England with the Roman Catholic Church (and Orthodox Churches) by pursuing the ordination of women.

Incidentally, a curiously insular notion anyone gives that the Church of England must accept some degree of solidarity with its partner Provinces which have already ordained women. The argument, however, was put with considerable Now I think it is equally fair to say that the present disciplinary notions in the Vatican alarm me greatly.

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The fairness of jury vetting

From Mr E. P. Thompson

Sir, In the interesting exchange between Mr T. G. Talbot, QC, and Professor-Colonel G. I. A. D. Draper (November 29 and December 14) the danger has arisen that two distinct issues become confused. Professor Draper cites several authorities for the antiquity of the Crown's right of stand by, and concludes from these that "those who have questioned the legality of the current practice of jury vetting will find that the practice has been part of the common law for 500 years."

But vetting and stand by are two distinct procedures. Vetting might be defined as the procedure by which prosecution (or defence) obtain detailed information as to the records, possible disposition or bias, of persons on the jury panel: that is, investigation of the panel. If we suppose, for instance, I hope that we may) that there are no covert means of interfering with the constitution of the panel, challenge or stand by are the means by which either party may eliminate panel members from the jury.

Even Law Officers of the Crown appear to be under difficulties in distinguishing between these two procedures. In an article in the *Oberlin* of November 11, Mr Sam Silkin, the former Attorney-General, argued that "to cavi at the guidelines (in jury vetting), and yet accept the challenge system, is to strain at a gnat whilst swallowing a legion of camels". But of course—unless these are actual "guidelines" about—vetting would be a futile operation without recourse to stand by. The camel and the gnat must be swallowed together, as Mr Silkin, in his term of office, happily did.

The common understanding of common law and practice, as it had emerged by the eighteenth century, was that of the random selection of the jury, or corrected by challenge or stand by. That is, prosecution or defence could remove from the jury persons who by reason of occupation, known history or prejudice, etc, might be supposed to be biased.

In the smaller communities of those days, with a limited property qualification for jurors, both defence and prosecution clearly knew something about members of the panel, whether by enquiry or hearsay. Historians who consult trial records, especially in sensitive cases such as treason, sedition

Spending on education

From the Principal of Waltham Forest College

Sir, We poor second class citizens in the further/higher education sector read with some cynicism the correspondence in the *Times* from sectors and vice-chancellors of polytechnics and universities, concerning their finances. Colleges of further education, which cater for the majority of post-school education, have always been left with the tail end of financial allocations. Most of us have had to make do with leading prefabricated huts for decades and think ourselves lucky to have the opportunity to take over a condemned school as an annex. We see across the fence the multi-million pound budgets of those institutions, with few staff, student ratios, lecturers with incredibly few teaching hours and an elaborate Parkinsonian administrative structure. Their hospitality allowances alone would keep schools in books. I have details of universities not too far from reality, do with leading prefabricated huts for decades and think ourselves lucky to have the opportunity to take over a condemned school as an annex. We see across the fence the multi-million pound budgets of those institutions, with few staff, student ratios, lecturers with incredibly few teaching hours and an elaborate Parkinsonian administrative structure. Their hospitality allowances alone would keep schools in books. I have details of universities not too far from reality,

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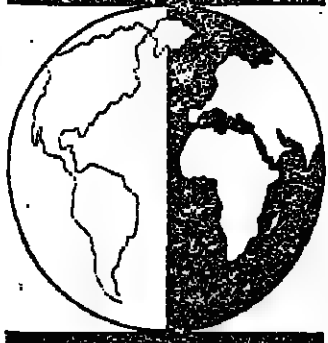
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Washington decides on oil tax of \$228,000m

Leaders of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives have agreed on legislation that could add \$228,000m (about £104.110m) to oil company tax bills in the decades ahead.

The politicians also agreed, however, to postpone final action on the legislation until early next year. Last April President Carter called for legislation to tax the profits, the so-called "windfall profits", that would accrue to domestic oil companies as United States price controls on oil were lifted to enable domestic prices to reach the world market level.

The Senate completed work on one complicated Bill that would have generated estimated tax revenues of \$178,000m between 1980 and 1990, while the House agreed on a Bill likely to produce a tax total of \$277,000m.

\$394m BP scheme

BP Petroleum Development of Norway says it has asked the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy for permission to develop Block 7/12 in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea, north-west of the Ekofisk field. The total development cost is estimated at 4,300m crowns (about £394.5m).

Ureco and Centec, the two tripartite companies set up to develop and exploit the European centrifuge process, were invited to Australia earlier this month to discuss possible cooperation. Such a technology transfer would need agreement between the four governments on security. Meanwhile, discussions are to continue in preparation for a decision by Australia during 1981.

US money supply up

The United States Federal Reserve Board has announced that the money supply rose by \$900m (about £411m) in the last statement week on a narrowly defined M1 basis, and that it rose by \$1,300m on the broader M2 basis. Business loans at large New York banks rose by \$1,100m.

Trade between September and November averaged £25m a month

British companies still in business in Iran

Speculation that the United States may impose a blockade in an attempt to break the deadlock over the Tehran hostages has added to the uncertainty facing British companies continuing to do business in and with Iran.

Fear of non-payment and civil unrest since the revolution have scared some away from a traditionally lucrative Middle East market. Others—primarily engaged on huge military contracts—learned long ago that their services would not be required. Nevertheless, trade continued and between September and November averaged £25m a month. And, although many companies are sufficiently cautious to provide against possible losses, most report that payments are coming through and that conditions within Iran are less chaotic than they appear in television reports.

Mr Ian Davis, a director of Thomas Robinson and Son of Rochdale, engineers and machine makers, recently returned from Tehran where he found "commercial life was going on fairly normally". He said: "We were made welcome by government officials, and, although the atmosphere in the streets was potentially scary, there was no hostility".

Robinson has received more than £1m in payments for flour milling machinery dispatched over the past few months. The last consignment was shipped to the Turkish port of Trabzon, for road transportation across Iran to Tabriz.

The company is one of three working at Tabriz and four others where grain silos are being built. The others are

Norwest Holst, which has been doing piling work, and Redler Conveyors of Stroud, which is doing the mechanical and electrical engineering.

Altogether the four and a half year contract for the silos and flour mill is worth more than £70m.

Redler has had men supervising work on site at Arak and Qom. A senior executive said yesterday that, if anything, work was progressing more smoothly than before the overthrow of the Shah. Several hundred Iranian nationals are employed on the sites.

Another company which has remained a workforce in Iran is Marples Ridgway, the civil engineering subsidiary of Bath and Portland. The company is engaged in talks with the Iranian authorities on ways of accelerating progress on its £105m Shurgaz-Zahedan-Mirjaveh road contract.

Meanwhile, work is going ahead, and the company has about 50 British engineers, five of their wives and seven children in Iran, living in the Baluchistan region.

Sir Kenneth Selby, chairman of Bath and Portland, is optimistic that the road will be completed. The present workforce is about 400, but Sir Kenneth explained that if the backlog of payments can be cleared the pace of work could be increased. This would mean taking on some 1,600 more workers.

The company has assets of about £38m tied up in Iran (including about £14m of plant and equipment) and has made a provision of £3.5m against possible losses.

So far deficits have been covered by insurers, but Sir Kenneth accepts that non-payment cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely.

Other contractors have abandoned work in Iran. Laing, Wimpey and Costain were each working under contract to International Military Services (formerly Millbank Technical Services) on military contracts at Isfahan and Darud before the revolution.

Each company has withdrawn its expatriate workforce, although it is understood that plant worth several million pounds has not been recovered.

Cementation International, part of the Trafalgar House group, had its management contract for the Farahad scheme terminated, but is understood to be considering an invitation from the new regime to new talks.

International Military Services had all of its Iranian contracts terminated. Britain won military orders worth about £2,500m between 1972 and 1978.

Companies offering goods for cash have been best placed to withstand the turmoil of the last 12 months. Companies relying on progress payments are vulnerable, especially since the Export Credits Guarantee Department stopped taking new business for Iran last February.

Up to last month the ECDD had paid out £30m in claims arising from Iranian defaults, and there have been suggestions that the total may reach £120m.

John Huxley

Export hope for joint uranium technology

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Editor

Anglo-Dutch-German centrifuge technology for the enrichment of uranium may be adopted by the Australian Government, which is studying the feasibility of installing an enrichment plant in Australia in order to increase the value of uranium exports.

Ureco and Centec, the two tripartite companies set up to develop and exploit the European centrifuge process, were invited to Australia earlier this month to discuss possible cooperation.

Such a technology transfer would need agreement between the four governments on security. Meanwhile, discussions are to continue in preparation for a decision by Australia during 1981.

The main competitor to the European gas-centrifuge enrichment process is the diffusion process used in the United States.

The United Kingdom partner in the tripartite project is British Nuclear Fuels. The company has a one-third shareholding in Centec, which designs and makes the centrifuge plants, and in Ureco, which operates the plants and markets the enriched uranium.

German bank chief's prescription for growth

From Peter Norman

Frankfurt, Dec 20

Herr Karl-Otto Pöhl, the incoming president of the West German Federal Bank, gave warning yesterday that West Germany will maintain its tight money policy in the face of growing inflationary pressures.

Speaking at the formal ceremony to mark his taking over of the presidency of the German central bank from Dr Oskar Emminger, Herr Pöhl went out of his way to dispel any impression that he will be less forceful than his predecessor in the fight against inflation.

He told his audience that there was no contradiction between tight money and economic growth. Instead, the two were more like twins, and the lessons of the past few years had shown that a policy of stability was the best prescription for economic growth.

He stressed that the bank would maintain its proven policies and that money must remain tight if it were to maintain its value.

The bank, he said, would determine its monetary policy on the basis of the real growth rate in GNP, which designs and makes the centrifuge plants, and in Ureco, which operates the plants and markets the enriched uranium.

We know that higher oil prices cannot be spirited away through a restrictive and monetary policy, Herr Pöhl said, adding that every mark that is paid out for oil or other raw materials, development aid or protection of the environment cannot be spent again on wages, profits or additional public expenditure.

Apart from inflation, another problem has been the growing reserve role of the Deutsche mark.

Herr Pöhl conceded that Germany will probably have to live with this role whether it likes it or not. On the other hand he rejected any restriction of free movements of capital as an answer to the problem.

Dr Emminger, the outgoing president, underlined that West Germany was entering a decade of great economic uncertainty in a relatively strong position.

The Federal Bank's huge reserves mean that the current account deficits arising this year and next will present no immediate problems.

The domestic economy was still performing well, thanks largely to a boom in investments, while the bank had domestic money supply under control and was therefore able to curb that part of inflation that did not arise from oil price rises.

Business Diary, page 17

Investigating need for small workshops

The Government has commissioned an investigation by a firm of accountants into the need for workshop space for small businesses.

Mr David Mitchell, Under-Secretary at the Department of Industry, said yesterday during the committee stage of the Industry Bill: "We have commissioned Coopers and Lybrand to look into the need for small workshop units. They are due to report in February."

"We expect there to be a very substantial demand, which we will encourage the private sector to fill."

Mr Mitchell added: "There should be opportunities for private businesses to build factories and local authorities to take head-leases."

A pilot scheme of 80 small workshops was being set up by the Government in three areas, including Jarrold on Tyneside.

"In very difficult areas, public money may have to be involved," said Mr Mitchell.

If the scheme worked in the difficult areas, private businesses would be encouraged to start up in areas where they had previously been reluctant. The committee stage was adjourned for the Christmas recess with six clauses of the Bill remaining.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

House insurance

From the Secretary-General of the British Insurance Association

Sir, Mr C. W. Humphreys says, correctly (December 17), that the BIA leaflet "A Guide to Building Insurance for the Home Owner" recommends that sums insured be based on the full cost of rebuilding.

However, he omits to mention that the guidance given refers largely to twentieth-century properties, built mainly of brick. The leaflet says "older houses which are required to be reinstated in exactly their original style need a professional valuation".

Mr Humphreys applies the decision in *Leppard v Excess* incorrectly. In that case, in the terms of the particular policy wording, the market value of the house was an appropriate measure of the owner's loss in circumstances where "he had never lived in the house and did not intend to; it had been for sale for three years before being destroyed. The case did not lay down general guidelines for householders or insurers."

Most payments by insurers are based on the cost of repairing or rebuilding the damaged house, because that is what owners generally require—and it is fair that they should get it.

Yours faithfully, R. BARDELL, Secretary General, British Insurance Association, Alderman House, Queen Street, London EC4N 4TU.

From Mr G. J. Goodhardt: Sir, When I insure the contents of my house I am given a choice. I can either pay a premium related to the replacement cost of my belongings and in the event of a claim I receive the full cost of replacing lost articles. Or I can pay a lesser premium related to the realisable value of my belongings, in which case any claim will be subject to a deduction for "wear and tear".

This seems to me a fair system, except that I have never quite understood why the premium rate per pound insured should be higher in the first instance than in the second.

Yours faithfully, PAUL MATTHEWS, Faculty of Law, University College London, 4-8, Rindless Gardens, London WC1R 0EG.

From Mrs A. Avery: Sir, While agreeing with the sentiments expressed, I object to the sexist tone of Dr Stephen Ware's letter (December 14).

Surely I was not the only girl to be educated and enter the Meccano model engineering system? Over 30 years ago, I was not allowed a set because I was a girl, so I played frequently with that of

But when I insure my house, I am told that I must insure for the full cost of rebuilding in the event of a total loss, and that if I do not then any claim for a partial loss will be scaled down in proportion. However, if I make a claim for a partial loss (for example for redecorating a room damaged by water from a leak), I find my claim is still reduced for "wear and tear". Under the name of "betterment". Can anyone explain this seeming anomaly to me?

Yours faithfully, GERALD GOODHARDT, 45 Hillcroft Crescent, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 8EP.

From Mr P. B. Matthews: Sir, With reference to Mr C. W. Humphreys' letter (December 17) on house insurance cover, it might not be inappropriate to point out that, in *Leppard v Excess Insurance* [1979] 2 All ER 568, to which he refers, the plaintiff's house destroyed by fire was on the market at £4,500, although the replacement would have cost £8,694.

Since the plaintiff was trying to sell at £4,500, his loss was not the loss of a house but the loss of a bargain. Accordingly he recovered the market value less the value of the site (which he still had, of course), a total of £3,000. Megaw LJ made it clear that the value of the loss "is a question of fact, and one must look at all the relevant facts of the particular case, to ascertain the actual value of the loss at the relevant date."

This case is therefore not authoritative on the question of the value of the loss of a home used as such and not up for sale at a price lower than the cost of reinstatement. If such a house be lost through fire insured under the plaintiff's policy, the plaintiff has lost his home, not his bargain, and is entitled to be put back in the position he occupied before the loss took place.

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Marketing opportunities for steel

From Mr W. Cookson

Sir, F. W. Smith is right to say (Business News, December 11) that the British Steel Corporation cannot hope to keep ahead in the big league of world steel production and should introduce new products based on existing technology available in this country to meet recognisable market needs.

As a customer of the British steel industry for about forty years, I have seen tremendous technical innovations in the quality of the sheet materials, but it has invariably been left to the customer to develop new designs and products to take the fullest advantage of the new opportunities for increased sales, which these materials provide. In particular, the building industry has only benefited to a limited extent. It is a sobering thought that galvanised corrugated sheets, invented in this country in the last century, are still being produced, although in slightly different forms and a variety of colours, flooding an over-saturated market here and abroad.

New designs of building products have met with gratifying success in this country and abroad, but what has been and still is, required is a basic change of policy by the BSC to support such profitable innovations on a large scale, particularly for overseas promotional activities.

Additionally, there is an enormous potential for the use by small manufacturers of new and inexpensive production machines to supply variations of the new products, which will allow the market a choice of buying these instead of the mass produced outputs tied to a particular mill based machine.

The BSC has failed to change its marketing concepts appreciably, while small-scale introduction of new products using these machines has struggled to survive. Other countries are already using the new technologies and, indeed, for some time now one of my earliest inventions, manufactured on the Continent after the patent period had expired, is making increasing inroads into this country.

The present time is surely ripe for change in the development and marketing philosophy of the BSC, otherwise there is no real hope for the industry in the rapidly intensifying competition from other countries.

Sincerely, W. COOKSON, 132 Portchester Road, Fareham, Hampshire, December 12.

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It is now lawful to trade with Zimbabwe Rhodesia and our subsidiary Standard Bank Limited is ready to assist you in re-establishing and developing your business interests throughout the country.

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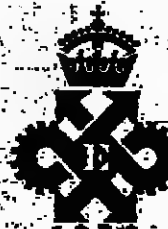
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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Equities drift as rally fades away

The Stock Market resumed its neglected look yesterday as the pre-Christmas malaise resumed after Wednesday's attempt at a technical rally.

Dealers moaned about the hours of horeddom experienced as investors' attention turned to activities of a more seasonal nature. This left equities and Government securities with a fairly drab look as they traded between narrow levels.

Gold shares a buoyant market of late, were below their best as overnight profit

Sockers of recovery stocks are slacking on Associated Engineering. The shares are now 73p after 60p just before last week's results with their £10m due to £19m in profits in the year to last September. However, profits this year are thought to be on the way to around £20m or more, and the shares probably yield a prospective 13.5 per cent.

taking on the bullion price found them falling towards levels of earlier in the week.

Even the money supply figures, which were as bad as feared last week, came and went without gaining a flicker of reaction from the market.

Gilt edged were mostly unchanged at the long end but shorts which opened firm encountered some fairly active two-way trading as buyers switched positions and seemed mostly unaffected by the gloomy bulletin issued by the Bank of England urging industry to cut spending. So that by the close they registered rises of about 1/2p on the day.

After opening 1.1 down the FT Index went on to close at its lowest point of the day 1.9 down at 420.2.

Glaxo provided the one bright spot among other value-substituted list of leading industrial rising 3p to 443p, after 445p, after reports that it had been given the price of its pharmaceutical products for the first time in seven years. But profit taking clipped 4p from Fisons at 260p after its decision not to go ahead with its acquisition of Agricultural Holdings. Pilkington Bros was 3p lower at 203p while the new slipped 3p to 3p premium and

falls of 1 were noted in ICI at 369p and Beecham at 119p.

ERF featured prominently among companies reporting with an 8p rise to 97p following its increased interim profits and higher dividend. But reduced profits and no final dividend saw Hawkins & Tipson slide by the same amount to 34p. A disappointing 5 per cent rise in profits at Scottish & Newcastle resulted in a 3p fall to 62p while Unigate with profits below most expectations and a warning on current prospects by its chairman managed to remain firm at 111p. In the meantime, British Steam Specialists rose 3p to 91p and Granada advanced 6p to 135p after their trading announcements. But falls were reported in Edbro 6p lower at 111p, R. Paterson 3p off at 36p and S. Hoffmann 1p lower at 70p.

Shares in United Carriers jumped 14p to 138p after news that Lex Service Group, unchanged at 85p, has increased its stake to nearly 29 per cent. But among builders A. Monk dipped a further 2p to 30p after news of losses and no dividend earlier this week, while Blue Circle Industries firmed 6p to 244p on further reflection of its sale of its Genstar interests.

Ladbroke retreated 2p to 136p on profit taking following the decision to allow the group to appeal against its casino closure and Dunbe-Combes-Marx

jumped 4p to 31p after the sale of some of its assets in its United States subsidiary. Further reflection of Nottingham Brick's figures earlier in the week was good for an 8p rise at 348p.

Gold shares were mostly lower as a direct result of profit taking on the bullion price which tumbled \$20 to \$469 overnight. West Driefontein tumbled \$51 to \$672, St Helena fell \$11 to \$24, Vaal retreated \$51 to \$381, and Anglo American Gold was \$41 lighter at \$693. Elsewhere in mining RTZ improved 5p to 422p and Tanks advanced 8p to 332p in connection with the Ashton Mines find. Union Corporation returning from suspension after merger talks with General Mining rose 5c to \$111 while General improved \$1 to \$345. Australians were again active with Northern Mining leaping 22p to 137p.

Profit taking clipped 3p from C. T. Bowring at 131p and other insurance brokers like Sedgwick Forbes and Minet Holdings were firm at 93p and 99p. Most of the major insurance groups remained dull with Commercial Union 1p lighter at 140p and falls of 3p reported in GRE at 230p, General Accident at 218p and Pearl at 274p.

The continued deadlock in Caracas and the threat of further reductions of oil supplies left oil shares lower. BP slid 10p to 344p and the new

trimmed 8p to 147p while Shell gave up 4p to 328p. Oil Exploration was 10p lower at 60p and merger partner Lamsco clipped 5p from the price at 348p. But hopes of a share split saw Sibens improve 12p to 406p after 402p.

Ferranti was the star turn among electricals with hopes of a bid from Rascal 5p down at 180p, boosted the shares 8p to 420p.

Amalgamated Power Engineering are now at 65p, only 5p away from the 1978-79 low. Internal disputes and lorry drivers' split first half profits (down from £3.1m to £2.9m) and the engineering strike conspired into the second half. But the dividend is to be maintained, and order books are said to be again filling up.

407p. Elsewhere, the picture was less rosy with Thern 6p off at 288p, GEC 4p lower at 332p and ICL 3p easier at 252p. Profit taking clipped 3p from Electrocomponents at 441p.

Banks were a firm feature although most closed a little of the top. Rises of 6p were achieved in National Westminster at 351p and Barclays at 421p while Lloyds was 5p better at 308p as was Grindlays at 111p and Royal Bank of Scotland at 269p.

Equity turnover on December 19 was 278.13m (10,578 barains).

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	rate	total
Brit Steam Spec (T)	21.4(17.3)	1.53(1.23)	—	1.5(1.3)	18/1	(5.21)
Cronite (F)	9.08(6.8)	0.48(0.25)	11.0(5.8)	2.13(1.85)	29/2	2.9(2.6)
Dorland & Rub (I)	—	—	—	0.75(0.35)	1/2	—
Edbro (I)	16.98(16.46)	0.45(1.38)	5.51(19.2)	2.27(1.97)	31/1	(9.08)
ERT Bridge (I)	39.5(33.0)	1.73(1.61)	—	1.73(1.61)	—	—
Hawkins Tipson (F)	18.39(19.08)	0.23(1.0)	3.09(14.4)	(1.345)	—	1.0(4.45)
Radwells (I)	3.3(3.3)	0.25(0.2)	2.8(7.19)	1.63(1.63)	23/1	(4.0)
S. Hoffmann (I)	44.0(44.9)	0.66(0.80)	1.10(1.21)	1.48(1.48)	9/4	—
Marston (I)	15.3(13.3)	3.0(3.1)	6.9(5.9)	1.2(0.8)	26/1	(2.5)
Nirn & Wright (I)	—	3.2(1.8)	5.2(1.6)	1.5(1.0)	13/2	—
New Jewell (I)	3.9(3.6)	0.16(0.15)	5.13(6.7)	0.52(1.0)	9/2	4.0(3.35)
R. Paterson (I)	8.2(6.9)	0.37(0.1)	5.64(6.47)	1.5(1.3)	31/1	(4.5)
Petlow (I)	7.1(10.0)	0.57(0.47)	5.51(7.12)	1.48(1.45)	31/1	(3.98)
Phil Harris (I)	6.4(6.3)	0.27(0.27)	5.6(1.45)	1.0(1.45)	26/2	—
Scot & Wacade (I)	22.4(18.8)	0.27(0.27)	5.49(4.21)	0.9(0.6)	5/2	—
Silverthorne (F)	4.2(1.3)	2.1(1.4)	—	0.17(—)	38/2	—
Trustees Corp (I)	—	0.86(0.22)	2.3(0.12)	2.0(1.3)	3/3	—
Unochrome Int (F)	13.15(11.7)	18.3(15.1)	6.97(5.9)	—	—	—
Unigate (I)	571.0(300.0)	—	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.438. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. — = Loss.

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries Limited



INTERIM REPORT

26 weeks ended October 28, 1979

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 1.50p (1978: 1.45p) per ordinary share in respect of the year ending April 27, 1980. The dividend will be paid on April 7, 1980 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on March 12, 1980.

The unaudited results for 26 weeks ended October 28, 1979 were as follows:

	26 weeks ended October 28, 1979 (unaudited)	26 weeks ended October 28, 1978 (unaudited)	52 weeks ended April 27, 1979
Turnover	239.8	207.5	426.9
Operating profit	24.8	22.2	37.8
Associated company	1.1	1.3	2.3
Financial income	0.8	0.6	1.3
Less: Financial expenses	26.7	24.1	41.4
Profit before taxation	4.1	2.5	5.7
Less: Taxation	22.6	21.6	35.7
Profit after taxation	7.0	4.8	11.4
Less: Preference dividend	15.6	16.8	24.3
Attributable to ordinary shareholders	0.3	0.3	0.5
Less: Ordinary dividends	15.3	16.5	23.8
Interim	4.2	4.1	4.1
Final	—	—	7.1
Profit retained	11.1	12.4	12.6
Earnings per share	5.5p	5.9p	8.5p

Total beer sales were up compared with the corresponding previous half year, but further progress is needed to regain our former position in the market.

As foreshadowed, hotels performed less well than last year due to major reconstructions and a falling off in tourist business.

Managed public houses further improved their performance.

Wines and spirits made good progress.

Our development programme continues, but the associated high financing costs are affecting our profits.

It is impossible to say at this moment to what extent trading in the second half year will be affected by prevailing economic conditions.

Joint venture agreed between Tubes and GE

Agreement, subject to board approval, has been reached between Tube Investments and General Electric of America, for GE to acquire its 51 per cent share of the jointly-owned industrial electrical business on December 31 for \$20m (about £43m).

The joint venture between Tubes and GE was established in the field of motor control gear and switchgear 15 years ago.

The partnership developed successfully with the acquisition of Allen West and Wallacestown and the inclusion of TI's distribution equipment and lighting companies, it became a substantial and profitable venture.

This venture has operated in recent years as part of GE's contractor equipment business division activities and has become more aligned with GE's main business, whereas TI's contribution to its direction and development has lessened.

This further investment by GE reaffirms its commitment to the future growth of business.

Lex Service raises stake in Utd Carriers

Lex Service Group has increased its stake in the transport company, United Carriers through the acquisition of a further 1.462m shares from the Transport Development Group. This takes Lex's holding in UCL to more than 28 per cent.

The Transport Development Group has been effectively withdrawn from the company.

A spokesman for Lex said that the group has no intention of either acquiring more shares or making a bid for the company. Lex, he said, regarded its original 16.6 per cent

Profits slip at Philip Harris

Staffordshire-based scientific apparatus manufacturer Philip Harris saw pre-tax profits slip from £479,000 to £371,000 in the six months to September 30, 1979. Turnover during the period fell marginally to £5.47m against £5.5m.

The group states that home sales of the scientific educational companies have held up well despite expenditure cut-backs in the sector. The board says steps have been taken to strengthen the group's leading position in the home market and to reinforce its overseas representation.

R. Paterson ahead at half year

On the back of a rise in turnover from £6.2m to £8.2m, pre-tax profits of R. Paterson the "camp coffee" group rose from £182,000 to £210,000. Earnings a share are up from 1.07p to 1.24p. The interim dividend is 0.59p against 0.57p gross.

Deal by Harrisons & Crosfield

Harrisons and Crosfield reports that contracts have been exchanged for purchase from Cartwright and Co (Importers) of the whole of the issued share capital of Cartwright & Co (Boards), Cartwright & Co

(Building Supplies), Cartwright & Co (Fencing) and Cartwright & Co (Timber).

These companies all operate in the Birmingham area. The consideration will be the net tangible assets value of the companies as at December 31, 1979. The group loans due from the companies to Harrisons at that date.

Banking offshoot sold by T Cowie

The T Cowie group has sold Red Design Securities, its wholly-owned banking subsidiary, to Avco Financial Services for £2.2m cash.

The net tangible assets of RDS at September 30 amounted to about £1.15m whilst its profits before tax for the year to that date were £228,000.

Taking into account the borrowings, including deposits of RDS, and on the basis that the sale proceeds will be applied in the first instance in reducing bank overdrafts, the transaction will reduce the group borrowings of Cowie about £19.2m at September 30 by a total of approx £8.2m.

Cavenham terms gen Weingarten

Cavenham Holdings Inc, the United States arm of Sir James Goldsmith's business interests, is offering \$12 a share for the outstanding stock in Weingarten Inc, a United States supermarket chain.

Weingarten has stores in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. The offer, which is worth \$28m (\$14m) and is being made through Cavenham Holdings' subsidiary, Cavenham & Texas, was agreed last month.

Resources: Managing director of subsidiary Exploration & Production Services (Holdings), Mr. J. Trevellick, who is buying out New Court's stake for £1.5m, is also buying the £210,000 sharehold loan notes of Export's subsidiary held by NCC.

NOVA (JERSEY) INC: Sales for half-year to September 30, 1979, £1.7m. Pre-tax profit, £189,000 (£132,000). EPS 4.36p (7.22p). Dividend 5.45p (5.63p) gross.

MAITWELLS GROUP: Agreement reached for Hartwell to purchase C and L (100 per cent) for £204,000 in shares. C and L has a turnover of about £5m.

TOTAL ACQUISITION: Total has made a formal offer to acquire Humphrey Lloyd & Co, a 17-bedded textile company, for £400,000 cash.

CREST HOTELS: Group has purchased Hampshire Motor House hotel located in Basingstoke, from Queens Mount House.

This 55-bedroom hotel will be known as the Crest Hotel, Basingstoke, and is an important addition to the fully-owned hotels subsidiary of B&N.

Granada climbs 15 pc

By Rosemary Unsworth
The independent television strike cost Granada £1.8m in lost profits last year. Nevertheless, the group showing an overall 14.6 per cent climb in pre-tax profits.

Turnover for the year to September 29 1979 rose by 11 per cent to £277.5m while profits, which had grown by 20 per cent in the first half, came out at £39m compared to £34m for the previous year. The market responded to the announcement by moving the share price 6p higher to 135p.

Mr Alex Bernstein, who succeeded Lord Bernstein as chairman in September, pointed out that the last weeks of the television strike were included in the results. The remaining four weeks, appearing in the current year, are expected to show low pre-tax costs.

But Granada stressed that current advertising buoyancy

may help to offset some of the effects of the dispute.

The motorway services division almost doubled profits from £1.3m to £2.5m during the year following the implementation of the prior report recommendations which reduced the group's rental costs and improved turnover from £30m to £38.4m.

UK television rental, which contributes more than half the group's total profits, also saw improved growth and Granada is encouraged by the initial results from video cassette recorders' entry on the market.

Although this area may be affected by the continuing downward trend in the operations, Granada showed an improvement and rental showrooms have increased by 20 p 153.

Properties, books and music publishing, which together contribute 10 per cent of group profits, all showed growth and

are expected to contribute slightly more this year.

The final dividend proposed at 3.55p gross will represent a 76 per cent increase on last year's 2.2p, making a total of 5.6p gross.

Hawkins & Tipson sharply lower

Rope, wire, and furniture manufacturers, Hawkins & Tipson reported a drastically lower net profit at £238,000 compared with £1m for the year to August 31, 1978. Turnover was also down to £18.39m against £19.08m.

The board says that the disappointing and unsatisfactory results are due to excess manufacturing facilities for traditional business at a time of declining markets and world over capacity.

The directors say that they expect profits from Millbury for the full year to be satisfactory, while the price of tin should buoy up South Crofty.

Last week the company's annual general meeting saw angry scenes as shareholders tried to oust the directors, establish the use of certain funds, and accelerating the location of a new mill.

This meeting which precipitated the Department of Trade inquiry.

St Piran reports that between June and August the company's holding in Milbury, a house building concern, increased from 79.9 per cent to 86.3 per cent. Milbury has a sizeable land bank to which it added in the first half.

St Piran's figures include a surplus item of £197,000 from foreign bank loans. Earnings per share fell from 6.75p to 5.11p. The directors also

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Disputes bring half-year fall at Edbro

By Baron Phillips
The engineering strike a go-slow during the summer caused a major profit slump for the engineers Edbro Holdings.

At the half-way stage, the board reports a substantial fall in pre-tax profits from last year's £1.59m to £444,000 in the 1978-79 period. Turnover during the period increased marginally by £500,000 to £16.9m against £16.46m.

The group was also affected by the upward movement in interest rates during the period, resulting in a more than doubling of interest charges, from £207,000 to £474,000. The situation was further exacerbated by a major warehouse move at the start of the year and a high stock level caused by the summer slump.

Chairman Mr Lawrence T. Dale says that the strike at the overtime ban hit the group potential profits, an extreme hard hit estimate the group lost around £500,000 on strike itself and almost a similar amount from the overtime ban. There is little doubt he says that without the industry problems last summer pre-tax profits would have been in line with the same period last year.

On a more optimistic note Mr Dale is forecasting pre-tax profits for the current half year of around £1.5m which would make the year's total to just under £2m.

Options: Activity among traded options remained fairly robust yesterday with total contracts tumbling to 166 compared with the previous day's total of 429, the lowest figure since September 27.

Declaration day among traditional options, as to be expected, provided a slightly firmer spot. Interest remained in oil shares while elsewhere, falls were made in Ladbroke, Lloyds and C. Bowring.

Fuse were arranged in Ribbons, Howard Tannens and ZCI while doubles were completed in House of Fraser.

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FINANCIAL NEWS

ERF sales hit by dispute

Financial Staff
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979. Mr Peter Foden,
said that the dispute
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profit figure as it
a substantial fall in
es at the time.

'lastics, which contri-
out 10 per cent of
profits, more than
its profits and ERF

plans to expand its activities.
But the fire-fighting vehicle
and appliance market continued
to suffer from the cutback in
public expenditure in Britain
although overseas business,
which now accounts for a third
of turnover, is growing. "We
expect a substantial improve-
ment in the second half
because of the overseas busi-
ness", Mr Foden said.

"Third quarter results have
been encouraging and with a
reasonable final quarter, the
full year's results should be up
to expectations".
Last year the group made pre-
tax profits of £5.3m.

The interim dividend has
gone up from 0.5p gross to 3p
gross with the end of dividend
restraint.



Mr Peter Foden, chairman of
ERF (Holdings).

Walfgar sees more growth

Mr House, owner of
the Q&E and Express
news, is prepared and
its profits to grow.
The gloomy outlook
at the world for the
le of years.
an, Mr Nigel Brookes,
his annual statement
group was prepared
possible to operate
in a difficult cli-
that he saw no reason
that profits would
stressed that shipping
a loss money in the
although the second
profitable. This was
most affected by the
wintering last year. The

Iranian crisis and mechanical
problems with the three pas-
senger ships also took their toll
providing "a thoroughly bad
result" of a £5.7m profit loss.
"Various management and
managing changes have been
made and the prospect bene-
forth is for moderate profits
from a growing international
market", he comments.

The joint property develop-
ment with Whitbread of
Chiswell Street is due for com-
pletion in 1980 and 1981. The
twin office towers, the largest
development of its kind under-
taken in central London for
years, will each provide more
than 200,000 square feet.

The newspaper and magazine

division needs to make "a
distinct improvement in results
for the whole group to move
up to an altogether higher level
of returns", stressed Mr
Brookes. Although the Sunday
Express, the Evening Standard
and the Daily Express did
better than in the previous
year, these results were
neutralized by the Daily Star's
figures. "This did not
well to reach the £1m sales
mark in such a short time but
it has developed its advertising
revenues more slowly than was
expected."

United States activities are
now more promising despite
formidable problems and an un-
favourable economic climate.

Brit Steam
Specialities
24pc ahead

Leicester-based pipeline
equipment suppliers British
Steam Specialities managed to
push pre-tax trading profits
ahead by 24 per cent. For the
six months to September 30,
1979, profits moved up from
£12.5m to £15.3m on turnover
higher at £21.44m against
£17.37m.

The main business of the
group is the distribution and
supply of industrial and heat-
ing equipment.

In August 1979 both Besto-
bell and UDT Industries made
offers to acquire the whole of
the companies issued share
capital but the bids lapsed the
following month.

The steady increase in
British Steam's business over
the period under review results
from the group's policy of
developing and extending trade.
The board says it is now reap-
ing the benefits of the capital
investment programme and has
increased the number of its
branches around the country
to about 35.

This expansion programme is
continuing under review and
although it is unlikely more
branches will be opened in the
current half the board says fur-
ther premises will come on
stream over the next two or
three years.

Chairman Mrs Helen Waudby
is cautiously optimistic about
the future. In her annual state-
ment she said that in spite of
somewhat flat conditions the
directors were budgeting for in-
creased profits.

Sony parent company hits record

Sony Corporation of Japan
has announced that its parent
company's net profit and sales
registered an all-time high to
the end of October, supported
by rising exports and brisk
sales of video tape recorders.

Sony's consolidated earnings
report showed, however, that
net profit declined by 31.5 per
cent primarily because of
foreign exchange losses.

As Japan's leading manufac-
turer of acoustic equipment and
colour television, the company
said its parent company's net
profit went up 34.1 per cent in
the year to 26.36bn yen from
19.66bn yen in the preceding
year. Sales were 469,018bn yen,
up 13.3 per cent from 413,52bn
yen a year earlier. Per share
profit went up to 122.25 yen
from 91.20 yen.

Officials attributed the robust
sales and net profit increases
mainly to increasing exports
due to the year's downturn.
Exports went up 14.1 per cent
to total 287.58bn yen from
252.04bn yen in 1978.

Domestic sales were 181,431bn
yen, up 12.1 per cent from
161,826bn yen in the previous
year. Officials also said that in
the latest year there were no
losses resulting from foreign
exchange fluctuations.

Sony has been courting the
United States investor almost
as long as it has been wooing
the United States consumer, and
for quite a while it met with
resounding success in both
endeavours. Of late, however,
it has been running into prob-
lems on both fronts.

The Japanese concern is not
just a pioneer in developing
acoustic equipment. In 1961, it

also became the first Japanese
company to sell stock in the
United States. In 1970, its stock
became the first Japanese issue
listed on the New York Stock
Exchange, and now it has list-
ings on the Pacific and Mid-
west exchanges, as well.

These items were an extra-
ordinary tax credit of \$95.4m,
a net exchange gain of \$6.3m,
and provision for reorganiza-
tion for \$73m and a net ex-
change loss of \$57.3m. All
figures are in United States
dollars.

Mitsubishi Research Institute
of Japan has predicted that the
country's real economic growth
in 1979, according to Mr Alex
H. Massad, vice-president of
Mobil's exploration and produc-
ing division.

The company has already
earned \$1.4bn (about £65m) in
the first nine months of this
year. For all of 1978 Mobil
earned a record £1.1bn.

Mr Massad said that during
the first nine months of this
year, Mobil saw a "turnaround
from depressed levels of down-
stream earnings both overseas
and in the United States".

Signal's total proven reserves
were about 10 million barrels of
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Bestobell in South East Asia
are to be managed through
Bestobell Australia.

This subsidiary is 78 per cent
owned by the group and is
quoted on the Sydney Stock
Exchange. It has a consistent
profit record over many years.

The South East Asia interests
comprise Bestobell Malaysia
and Bestobell Singapore pri-
vate, together with newly-
formed subsidiaries in Hong-
kong and Thailand.

The net tangible assets of
these companies, valued at
about £870,000, have been pur-
chased by Bestobell Australia.
In addition, an amount will be
payable for goodwill, related to
earnings in 1980 and 1981.

ENSO GUTZTIE
This big Finnish engineering and
pump company has extended its
interests in the United Kingdom,
with the purchase of two Stanley
Rose companies in Kent. The
acquisition, made through Enso-
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Workers fear crisis at
other car company

As at one of Britain's
specialist car firms
where the crisis that the com-
pany had reached the
road.
they prepared for the
stomas break engineers,
s and office staff at
ars, of Blythe, Surrey,
now if they would have
return to in the New
they had just learned
international firm
t accountants had been
t to investigate the
ability of the company.
stock news which has
an air of gloom to the
at Blythe and its
in Northampton and
t was not intended to
sed until after Christ-

t was leaked from
Ireland where the
pent Corporation had
come up with promised.
And yesterday with the
ers in top gear prepar-
servicing Panther cars
on the road before
k, accountants, Belfast,
and Sella were working
to try and keep the
in business.

n Bond, a spokesman
receivers, said: "We
ng to keep the firm a-
live, but at the
it is too early to say
it happen. We were

appointed at noon on Tuesday
and we did not know much
about the business then. We
have put a team in to find out
all we can with a view to the
company being taken over by a
third party.

We are keeping on the
workforce and everyone has
been paid until after the
Christmas holiday. No one has
been made redundant, though
we cannot say at the moment
whether there will be redun-
dancies in the future.

We have not started on the
production line but the factory
is being kept busy with serv-
icing, etc.

We were hoping that the
news of our appointment would
not get out until after Christ-
mas when we would have been
in a much better position to
talk about the situation, but
unfortunately it came out in
Northern Ireland.

The trouble seems to be
that the company had expanded
and was expecting an injection
of money from the Northern
Ireland Development Corpora-
tion, and when this did not
materialize the bank called us
in."

Mr Bond said that they were
still hopeful of investment
from Northern Ireland and that
Mr Ian Paisley, MP, was due to
visit the factory at Blythe yes-
terday to talk about its future.

Rustons group up 22pc

n Thompson & Ever-
et Burton-based brewer
Whitbread has a 35
stake, pushed pre-tax
up by 22 per cent to
the half-year to Sep-
30. Sales during the
rose from £13.3m to

as per share rose from
£6.94p and shareholders
red with a 35 per cent
in the interim dividend
to 1.79p gross. The
also planning a one-
script issue.

board states that despite
uncertainties it ex-
pects company to hold on to
of the beer market.

Last year the group increased
profits from £4.2m to £4.5m
and reported earlier this year
that its volume sales were run-
ning 5 per cent ahead of the
previous period.

Having increased its capital
spending by some £700,000 to
£2.2m last year the group is
continuing an extensive modern-
ization programme, which in-
cludes replacing plant in the
brewery and refurbishing many
of its 600 public houses.

However, with cash and short-
term deposits of almost £4m at
the year-end the programme
has so far been met from
internal resources.

Appointments

New post in Japan for
former ambassador

Iaduo Kato, Japanese
dier in London from
til March this year, has
pointed counsellor in
o John Squire & Sons,
company of the Swire

M. Saunders, a director
and Company Hold-
ings the board of its
British Castors.
A. Connell, managing
of John Walker & Son,
ed the board of the Dis-
company.
L. Preedy will succeed
L. Preedy as chairman of

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Anglo American Corporation Group

Extracts from the reviews by the chairmen of the Orange Free State
gold mining companies for the year ended 30 September 1979

Gold

At the time of writing last year's review the price of gold set at
the London fixings had just fallen by some \$50 to \$194 in the
space of a month. This followed the announcement of a
\$30 billion support operation by the United States Government
and of a massive increase in the amount of gold that was to be
auctioned monthly by the United States Treasury. Nevertheless,
attitudes were cautiously optimistic.

The strength of the market has since surpassed all expectations,
with the price soaring to a new record fixing of \$387 on the
closing day of the year under review. Three fixings later it
peaked at \$437, \$243 higher than at the same time last year.
More recently, however, the price has been fluctuating below
\$400. The US Treasury subsequently again altered its auction
policy from one of regular sales of specific quantities to a
being kept busy with servicing,
etc.

The average price of gold during the financial year was \$257,
an increase of 43 per cent over the previous average of \$180.
Also of significance is the fact that the price has increased
appreciably in terms of stronger currencies. During the year
the dollar price rose to \$387 from \$217, an increase of 83 per
cent. In Deutschmark terms the price rose by 71 per cent,
by 86 per cent in Swiss francs and by 119 per cent in
Japanese yen.

Whereas last year the increase in the gold price largely
reflected the weakness of the US dollar, the pattern this year
has seen a more widespread distrust of all paper money.
Indeed, investors' attempts to protect the value of their assets
have been a major factor, not only in gold's rise to record prices,
but also in the levels attained by oil prices. It is significant
that the principle was recognised by recent US
legislation which permits pension funds and insurance
companies to invest a proportion of their assets in precious
metals.

Investment in gold, including bullion, medallions and official
coins, is estimated to have absorbed 48 tons in 1978
compared with 417 tons in 1977. Investment demand in 1979
is anticipated to show an even more substantial increase
although it is too early to be precise.

Fabrication demand for gold in 1978, including coin and
medallions, rose to a record 1 562 tons. In view of the sharp
increase in the gold price in hard currencies some decline in
industrial output must be expected in 1979. Current estimates
of the reduced demand in this sector, however, indicate that
the fall is likely to prove relatively modest, particularly when
compared with the major decline in 1974 when demand fell
to 250 tons. The continuing strength of the jewellery and
industrial market may be ascribed in part to the successful
promotional efforts of Intergold. Intergold has also stimulated
the high level of demand for Kruggerand gold coins which
contain one ounce of fine gold. A survey into the marketability
of the R2 gold coin, which contains approximately a quarter
of an ounce of fine gold, has been initiated.

The supply of gold to the market in 1979 is expected to be
higher than at any time other than in 1967/68 when monetary
authorities sold large quantities in an attempt to maintain a
fixed price of \$35 an ounce. New production by mines in the
non-communist world will probably show a slight increase,
from the approximate 970 tons of the past three years. Net
communist-bloc sales are estimated to be around 250 tons as
against annual sales of around 400 tons in the recent past.
This reduction, however, is more than offset by the increased
amount sold by the US Treasury. The IMF will have sold 170
tons in 1979 compared with 184 tons in 1978.

It is not certain whether the IMF will continue its sales after
the current four-year programme which ends in May 1980, nor
is it clear whether the US Treasury will continue its sales at
the level of its November decision. It is quite obvious, however,
that foreseeable supplies of newly mined gold are insufficient
to meet current demand, let alone an increasing investment
demand.

The year has seen greater awareness of gold's role as a
monetary reserve as shown by the revaluation to market-
related levels of the gold portion of most central bank reserves.
In the future, gold seems bound to play an increasingly
important part in international monetary transactions. Although
short-term price fluctuations will inevitably occur, the outlook
remains favourable.

Uranium

The current swing from increasingly expensive oil-based
energy to nuclear and coal is certain to accelerate in the 80s
even if total energy demand growth in the industrialised
nations only increases at a very modest rate. However, the
demands for additional safety devices on existing and future
nuclear power plants will result in further delays in commis-
sioning dates and reduce earlier predictions of growth in
near-term consumption.

Australian producers are making progress in overcoming
State and environmental problems which have delayed the
commissioning of their mines and are now more active in the

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
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